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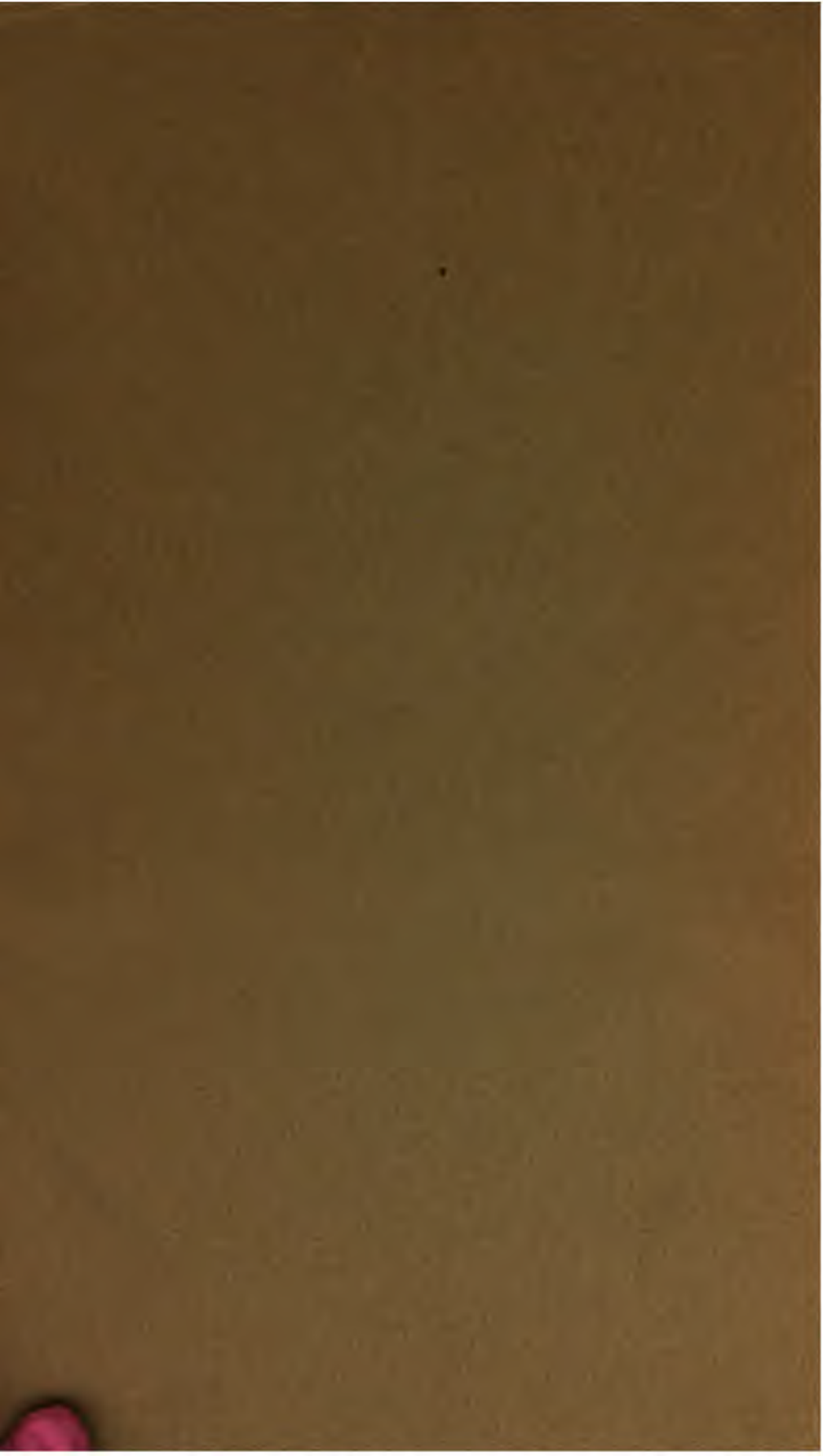
LEWIS JOHN BERGER.

CCB
(Isle of Wight)



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A TOUR

TO THE

ISLE OF WIGHT,

ILLUSTRATED WITH

EIGHTY VIEWS,

DRAWN AND ENGRAVED IN AQUA TINTA.

BY

CHARLES TOMKINS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

London:

PRINTED FOR G. KEARSLEY, FLEET-STREET.

1796.

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TO

SIR JOHN BARRINGTON, BART.

OF BARRINGTON HALL,

IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX,

AND OF SWAINSTON, IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT,

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN,

THIS TOUR

TO THE

ISLE OF WIGHT,

ILLUSTRATED WITH VIEWS,

IS DEDICATED,

WITH RESPECT, AND GRATITUDE,

FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE

HE KINDLY AFFORDED THE AUTHOR,

IN THE PROGRESS OF THIS WORK,

BY HIS OBLIGED,

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

CHARLES TOMKINS.

Anderson 14 May 1934

PREFACE.

IT was not the original intention of the Author to have given any more than a ſhort account of each of the views, which he preſented to the public; but finding, that though there were ſeveral hiſtories of the Iſland, ſóme of them were become ſcarce, and none contained any direction, by which the traveller could guide his ſteps, in ſearch of the many beautiful ſituations abounding in the Iſland, he was induced to change his purpoſe, and after giving the beſt hiſtorical account, which he could ſelect, for the narrow limits of his work, and adding ſome particulars not mentioned by former writers, he has ſubjoined a complete

deſcription of the country, by which the reader may have an opportunity of going through the Iſland, without miſſing any object that is worthy of his attention.

He begs the Subſcribers will have the goodneſs to attribute the little delays which have taken place in the publication of ſome of the numbers, to the anxiety which he has felt, to render his work as complete as poſſible, and to the labour, which they will readily conceive, muſt reſt upon a ſingle individual, in ſo arduous a taſk, as the drawing and engraving eighty plates.

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A

TOUR

TO THE

ISLE OF WIGHT.

HAVING long been actuated by a deſire to view the pictureſque beauties of the *Iſle of Wight*, ſo juſtly called, by all who have viſited it, the *Garden of England*, I determined to embrace ſo favourable a ſeaſon as the ſummer of 1793, to examine that beautiful and romantic iſland. I therefore left London early in June, and took the road for Southampton, through Kenſington and Hammerſmith, places too well known by their contiguity to the metropolis, to require any minute deſcription. I next came to Brentford, the county-town of Middleſex, remarkable only for the length, dirtineſs, and ruggedneſs of its ſtreets. It has indeed been

rendered memorable by the victory which Edmund Ironſide obtained over the Danes, who raiſed the ſiege of London, in order to meet his army at this place, A.D. 943; hither alſo King Charles I. advanced after the battle of Edgehill, in 1642.

Three miles farther weſtward is Hounſlow, a market town, principally inhabited by inn-holders, as it is the firſt ſtage on the great weſtern road. Here I unſucceſsfully endeavoured to diſcover the ſcite of a convent of Friars of the order of the Holy Trinity, for the redemption of captives, which is ſaid to have exiſted at this place before the third of Edward I.

This order carries the name of its inſtitutor or founder, who was John of Matha, born at Provence, in France, in the year 1154. He followed his ſtudies at Aix, and at Paris, where he took his degrees, and being afterwards made a prieſt, he retired to a place near Maux, called

Cufroid, where, with an hermit, whoſe name was Felix, he led a ſolitary life.

Both having been admoniſhed in a dream, as the Papiſts affirm, to go to Pope Innocent the IIId. they accordingly viſited Rome, where, the Pope having had the ſame viſion, waited for them. On the preceding day, whilſt he was ſaying maſs, it is ſaid, a hideous phantom appeared to him, arrayed in white, with a croſs half red and half blue on his breaſt, and graſping, with his hands, two ſlaves bound in chains. This viſion made him reſolve to eſtabliſh an order, whoſe care ſhould be, to go and redeem the Chriſtian captives detained in ſlavery by the infidels. Having then conferred with the two hermits, he made them take an habit like to that which the phantom appeared in while he was at the altar, and gathering great alms, he ſent them to redeem ſeveral captives, an undertaking which ſucceeded very well, and induced many others to follow their example;

monaſteries were alſo founded for them, where they profeſſed the rule of St. Auſtin. Their order was confirmed in the year 1207, under the name of the Holy Trinity, for the redemption of captives.

In England, this order was received in the year 1357, and was called the order of Ingham.

Hence I proceeded, acroſs Hounſlow-Heath, to Bedfont. The church ſtands on the right hand, at the entrance of the village; and the yew-trees which are before it, being cut in the ſhape of two large birds, have a ſingularly fantaſtical appearance, and relieve the eye of the traveller, after having paſſed three miles over a barren and uncultivated heath.

Next to this is Staines, a market town, ſixteen miles diſtant from London, and ſituated at the weſtern extremity of Middleſex, which is here divided from Surry by the

river Thames. This place is greatly reſorted to by perſons who prefer angling as an amuſement; the river abounding with fiſh, and its banks ſupplying many convenient ſtations for ſportſmen of that deſcription. In the meadows, which ſkirt the river on each ſide, are delightful walks; and in one of them, on the Middleſex ſide, is an ancient ſtone, placed by the corporation of London, to mark the boundary of their juriſdiction on the Thames. This place will be greatly improved in its appearance, by the ſtone-bridge which is now erecting.

Croſſing the Thames into Surry, the meadow on the right hand is Runnymede, the well-known ſpot where King John ſigned *Magna Charta*, the foundation of our liberties, and of that happy Conſtitution, which has ever been the wonder and admiration of Europe, the glory and pride of Engliſhmen. This meadow is now the race-ground of Egham.

At a ſhort diſtance on the road, is the village of Egham, which was one of the firſt poſſeſſions of Chertſey-Abbey. Abbot Rutheric, famous for his public works, built the chancel of the church in the time of Edward III.; the church itſelf however is much more ancient. Here lived the poet Sir John Denham, well known by his elegant deſcription of Cowper's-hill, which is in this neighbourhood.

Leaving Windſor-foreſt on the right, I next aſcended Egham-hill, and entered the dreary heath of Bagſhot. Here the continued ſandy road, and ſucceſſion of hills covered with dark furze, render travelling tireſome, and prove very ungratifying to the eye. This, at length, is ſomewhat relieved by the artificial caſcade in Windſor Great Park, which, though the head of a conſiderable piece of water, for want of proper management, is ſeparated into a confuſed number of ſmall ſtreams, and hence is deſtitute of that

grandeur, of which ſo magnificent an object might be rendered capable. Purſuing my journey over the heath, I paſſed Sunninghill-wells, and arrived at Bagſhot, a ſmall village, adjoining to which is Bagſhot-park, once the reſidence of the late Prince of Wales. This, though ſmall, is remarkably well wooded, and preſents a rich and lively ſcenery, ſcarcely any trees being viſible within ſeveral miles of it.

Leaving Bagſhot, and aſcending a long hill, a lone houſe preſents itſelf, which is ſaid to have obtained the name and ſign of the *Golden Farmer*, by the following extraordinary circumſtance. A farmer, for ſeveral years, met his landlord at Bagſhot, for the purpoſe of paying his rent, and taking advantage of the old man's convivial diſpoſition, always contrived to detain him till a late hour. When they ſeparated, the farmer diſguiſed himſelf, and knowing his landlord muſt aſcend the hill in his way home, he lay in wait for him at this place,

and for ſeveral years robbed him of the bag of gold he had paid him but a few hours before. Playing this game, however, a little too often, he was at length detected in the fact, and confeſſed, that he had, for a ſeries of years, paid his landlord the identical gold with which he had diſcharged his firſt year's rent.

Four miles farther, I croſſed the ſtream which parts Surry from Hampſhire at Blackwater, on leaving which, I kept a fine level road over the heath for near five miles, in a direct line to Hartford-bridge, and thence through the villages of Hartley-row, Hook-Newnham, and Skewers. Here the country becomes well wooded and cultivated. A few miles weſtward, on the right, is the village of Baſing, at which was fought a bloody battle between the Saxons, under Ethelred and his brother Alfred, and the Danes, who obtained the victory A.D. 871. At Baſing, John Marquis of Winchester, had a magnificent reſidence, larger

than that of any other ſubject in the kingdom. It afterwards became a garriſon for King Charles I. and endured a ſiege of two years, under its gallant and loyal lord; but being at length entered by the Parliament forces in 1645, it was plundered and burnt to the ground by order of Oliver Cromwell. All that can now be diſcovered of this magnificent habitation, are the garden walls, and the ſcite, which is circular, like a keep, with an area in the middle.

Before I entered Baſingſtoke, I croſſed the new canal, which is to join the river Wey, near Chertſey, in Surry. Great difficulties have ariſen in the proſecution of this important and laudable work, from the looſe ſandineſs of the ſoil, which the canal is unavoidably obliged to paſs through: when completed, however, it will be of eſſential ſervice, not only to the town of Baſingſtoke, but to all the villages near which it paſſes.

Baſingſtoke is forty-ſeven miles from London. It is governed by a corporation, and has a good market for corn and malt, and likewiſe poſſeſſes a ſmall ſhare of the woollen trade. It has a handſome church, built by Fox, Biſhop of Wincheſter, in the reign of Henry VIII. as appears by an ancient inſcription on the ſpandrils of the north door of the chancel. The veſtry and library adjoining, are parts of the old church; the library having been originally the chapel of St. Stephen. In this church were buried the mother and ſeveral of the kindred of Walter de Merton, Biſhop of Rocheſter, and High Chancellor of England, the munificent founder of Merton-college, Oxford, in the reign of Edward I. A chauntry was founded for them in St. Stephen's chapel. Walter de Merton had large property and connections here. Sir George Wheeler, the great Aſiatic traveller, was vicar of this church. The advowſon, being part of the poſſeſſions of Selbourne priory, was granted to Magdalen

college, Oxford, by the founder, Biſhop William of Wainflete.

According to Tanner, Henry III. at the deſire of Walter de Merton, founded an hoſpital for aged prieſts, at Baſingſtoke. The walls were of flint, and part of the chapel-roof lately remained. It was panelled with the arms of Merton, in the interſections; but every mark of antiquity about this hoſpital, was at length deſtroyed by the erection of a new brick-building on the ſpot, about the year 1778.

Here was born John de Baſingſtoke, archdeacon of Leiceſter, much celebrated for his knowledge of the Greek language, and an intimate friend of Matthew Paris; alſo Biſhop Groſthead, who firſt introduced the Greek numerals into England. John de Baſingſtoke died in 1252.

North of Baſingſtoke, on the right of the road, is a foundation of Sir William Sands,

knight, chamberlain, and privy counſellor to Henry VIII. who created him Lord Sands. Biſhop Fox obtained for him the king's leave to found, at Baſingſtoke, a free chapel, and guild of the Holy Ghoſt, the prieſt of which was to officiate in the chapel, and teach in the ſchool, which is adjoining. It was ſuppreſſed in the 37th year of the ſame reign.

Cardinal Pole, however, reſtored its eſtates, which were again ſeized in the civil war, but once more reſtored, together with the ſchool, in 1670, by Biſhop Morley.

The chapel is now in ruins; there remains only part of the north and ſouth walls, with a once beautiful hexangular tower, at the ſouth weſt corner. Of the tomb of its founder, who was buried here in 1542, not the ſmalleſt veſtige is now to be diſcovered. Both the ſchool and the chapel have fallen into neglect, ſince 1673. The building was moſt elegantly finiſhed in florid Gothic.

Croſſing from Baſingſtoke, through an open cultivated country, I arrived at Kempſhot, a hunting-ſeat of the prince of Wales, which has a ſmall houſe, and an extenſive park. I next paſſed through Popham-lane, travelling on the old Roman-road from Silcheſter to Wincheſter, and through the villages of Eaſt-Streton, at which place is the ſeat of Lord John Ruſſell, and at a ſhort diſtance are the villages of Kings-Worthy, and Headbourn-Worthy. The country here is pleaſantly contraſted, and the eye extends to a view of Wincheſter, ſurrounded by lofty hills. On the top of one of theſe, on the left hand before you enter Wincheſter, is the chapel of St. Giles, which ſeems to have been a larger ſtructure than it now appears. At this place, Waldtheof, earl of Northumberland, a noble Saxon, was beheaded, by command of William the Conqueror.

The next place I arrived at was Wincheſter, the ancient and moſt famous city of the Britiſh Belgæ, called by the Romans

Venta Belgarum and *Wintonia*; by the Britons, *Caer Gewent*, and by the Saxons Pintace ꝑtep.

It is ſituated in a vale, ſurrounded by lofty hills. The river Itchen paſſes the eaſt end of the city, where there is a wharf for unlading barges, which come from Southampton, and the parts adjacent. The ſtreets in general are narrow, and badly paved, except the high-ſtreet, in which ſtands the market-croſs, built in the reign of Henry VI. It is a handſome ſtructure, richly ornamented, in the Gothic taſte, with figures in niches; but its grandeur has been much diminiſhed, by the manner in which it was repaired and painted in 1770, when it was in contemplation to have taken down the whole of this curious memorial of antiquity. This city was conſiderable in the time of the Romans; ſince it appears, that the emperors had a weaving manufactory here, not only for their own dreſſes, and thoſe of their army, but alſo for making ſail-cloth, and houſehold linen. The em-

perors breed of Britiſh dogs, which were much eſteemed, for purpoſes of war, as well as for the amuſements of the amphitheatre, were trained and kept in this place. Under the Saxon heptarchy, Wincheſter was pillaged ſeveral times; but recovering itſelf after the union of the kingdoms, it became the reſidence of the Saxon kings, who embelliſhed it with magnificent churches, and made it the ſee of a biſhop.

King Ethelſtan gave to Wincheſter the privilege of having ſix mints for the coinage of money. After the Norman conqueſt, the city increaſed conſiderably, and the public records were kept here. The town ſuffered conſiderably by two accidental fires, and by the licentious violence of the ſoldiery, during the civil wars between King Stephen and the Empreſs Matilda; the latter proving victorious, made this city her head quarters. But the inhabitants, who were not attached to her cauſe, with the aſſiſtance of Henry de Blois,

biſhop of the ſee, betrayed the place into the hands of King Stephen; and Matilda would have been taken priſoner, had ſhe not eſcaped, by the ſtratagem of ſpreading a report that ſhe was dead, and being afterwards carried through the midſt of her enemy's army in a coffin.

On the ſouth-ſide of the weſt-gate, is an old caſtle, which ſuſtained many ſieges; but the ſevereſt was that of 1141, during which, it was defended againſt King Stephen by the Empreſs Matilda; when the whole city, with Hyde-abbey, a magnificent and ſtupendous ſtructure, beſides ſeveral churches, were burnt by Henry de Blois' adherents, who, having firſt deſerted his brother King Stephen, afterwards took part againſt the Empreſs Matilda, and by this conduct, involved the whole kingdom in a civil war. Out of the ruins of Hyde-abbey, the next year, this biſhop received from the monks, two hundred and fifteen pounds of ſilver, and fifteen pounds of gold, beſides jewels and other

valuables. In this fire periſhed a ſuperb crucifix, given by Canute, the Dane, who had expended upon it, as old records ſay, one year's revenue of the whole kingdom. It was generally thought, that De Blois took advantage of the times, to get this wealth into his own power, and to humble the monks, whoſe abbey was become a rival to the cathedral, which he wiſhed to convert into an archbiſhoprick for himſelf, and to make the abbey a biſhoprick, dependent upon it. This abbey was originally called *Newanminſtre*, and ſtood in the Cloſe, hard by St. Swithen's cathedral, which was otherwiſe called *Ealdenminſtre*.

Theſe abbeys were ſo near together, that the voices of the ſingers could be heard from one to the other, which occaſioned many diſputes among the monks, who afterwards proceeded to open quarrels. This circumſtance, added to the inconvenience of the air being rendered unwholeſome, by the great body of water iſſuing from the weſt-

gate, through the ſtreets, and ſtagnating at the new monaſtery, occaſioned Newanminſtre to be removed, two hundred years after its foundation, into the ſuburb called *Hide*; after which tranſlation, it bore the name of Hide-abbey. The bones of Alfred, king of the Weſt Saxons, and of Edward, his ſon and ſucceſſor, were brought to this place, and laid in a tomb before the high altar, in which were lately found two ſmall tablets of lead, inſcribed with their names. There alſo were depoſited the bones of St. Grimbald and Judoce.

The building of the caſtle is aſcribed to King Arthur. Edgar, Edward the Confeſſor, William Rufus, and Richard the Firſt, after his return from the holy wars, were crowned here. Sir William Waller took this caſtle from King Charles in the civil wars; at which time, it conſiſted of a ſquare ſtone building, having a tower at each of the corners. The whole of it was ſoon afterwards deſtroyed, except the Keep, whoſe

foundation is formed of flint and ſtone, and the great hall, where the aſſizes are now held. In this hall is preſerved a large oak-table, which they tell you is King Arthur's celebrated round-table; but it may, with greater propriety, be ſtated to have been one of thoſe tables, uſed, at an early period, at tournaments or other military feſtivals, to prevent diſputes of precedence amongſt the young nobility.

King Charles the Second began a magnificent palace near the ſcite of the caſtle. It was built, at a great expence, from a deſign of Sir Chriſtopher Wren. The ſhell alone coſt £.25,000. The weſt-ſide of the building is 328 feet long, the ſouth-ſide 216 feet; and a cupola, of 30 feet high, was intended to have been raiſed from the roof, to ſerve as a ſea-mark. In the original plan was a handſome ſtreet, formed in a direct line from the palace, to the weſt-end of the cathedral; and beſides this, a park of ten miles in circumference was intended. This palace would

have been ſufficiently extenſive to entertain the whole of the court; and if the ſcheme had been completely carried into execution, it would have given Wincheſter a ſuperb and ſplendid appearance, and furniſhed a laſting memorial of the refined taſte of that expenſive monarch. During the laſt war, this building was converted into a priſon, and it is now, by the humanity of the Britiſh Government, made an Aſylum for the French Emigrants.

In this city, it is ſuppoſed, that King Lucius founded a monaſtery, A.D. 196, and that the cathedral was begun by Kinegils, the firſt Chriſtian King of the Weſt Saxons, after pulling down a college of monks, which ſtood in the heart of the city, in the time of the Romans, and probably was that in which Conſtans, the monk, reſided, before he was appointed emperor by his father Conſtantine. King Kenwalch finiſhed this cathedral in 646, and the ſee of Dorcheſter was transferred hither by Biſhop Wina, in

660. In 963, Biſhop Ethelwold converted this monaſtery into a convent of benedictines. The preſent cathedral was begun by Biſhop Walklyn, about the year 1079. He built the tower, the greateſt part of the choir, the trancept, and probably the weſt-end. The nave was partly repaired by Biſhop Edindon; but William of Wickham, Biſhop of this See, entirely rebuilt it in 1394. The whole of the building, from eaſt to weſt, is 545 feet, including the chapel of our Lady, which is 54 feet. The choir is 136 feet by 40, the trancept 186 feet long, the centre tower 150 feet high, the nave 300 feet long, and 87 feet wide, including the ſide-ailes. The ſtalls of the choir were built by Prior Silkſtede. The choir under the tower was vaulted in the reign of Charles I. The noble altar-ſcreen, the ſide-walls, the roof of the preſbytery, and its ailes, were built by Biſhop Fox, in 1525. At the entrance of the choir is a ſcreen, deſigned by Inigo Jones. Thirteen Saxon kings were buried here, as were alſo King

Lucius, Canute, Hardicanute, William Rufus, Queen Emma, and Richard the Third, ſon of William the Conqueror. When the ſoldiers under Sir William Waller entered this abbey, at the time of the civil wars, they opened the tomb of Rufus, in the choir, and found on his thumb, a gold ring ſet with rubies, ſaid to be worth five hundred pounds. Nor was this the only act of depredation of which they were guilty; for, beſides diſplacing the bones of the Saxon kings, which had been carefully depoſited by Biſhop Fox, in oaken-cheſts, richly carved, they damaged ſeveral of the monuments; and it was with difficulty, that an officer of the name of Cuffe, who had been educated at the college, ſaved the magnificent tomb of William of Wickham from their fury.

Above twenty Biſhops of Wincheſter have been buried in this cathedral. Cardinal Beaufort, Biſhops Edindon, Wainfleet, Wickham, Fox, Gardiner, Langton, Pon-

tiſſara, and Toclive, have handſome monuments. The font is a ſquare baſon of black touchſtone, adorned with very ancient basreliefs, repreſenting one of the miracles performed by the patron of the church, and is probably of Saxon antiquity. The cathedral was originally dedicated to St. Swithen. At the reformation, its eſtabliſhment was altered by Henry VIII. to one dean, twelve prebendaries, ſix minor canons, ten lay clerks, and eight choriſters, with ſome inferior officers. He, at the ſame time, granted permiſſion to dedicate the cathedral to the Holy Trinity, ſince which period it has been called Trinity-church. There is alſo a chapel of the Virgin Mary, and another called Silkſtede's chapel, probably built by the prior of that name. Over the altar is a beautiful picture, painted by Mr. Weſt, repreſenting the raiſing of Lazarus from the dead. On the ſouth-ſide of the cathedral, ſtands the college of St. Mary, founded by that eminent patron of learning, William of Wickham, in 1387. The eſtabliſhment

conſiſts of a warden, ten fellows, one ſchool-maſter, one uſher, three chaplains, and ſeventy ſcholars, beſides three clerks, and ſixteen choriſters. The building contains two quadrangles, with a noble chapel, hall, library, and cloiſters, beſides a ſpacious quadrangle, contiguous to the college, where the commoners or ſcholars, not on the foundation, live, in a collegiate manner, under the maſter.

The biſhop's palace, called *Wolveſey*, ſtands oppoſite to the college. It is a large building with ſeveral towers, and has a ſtream running nearly round it. This palace has undergone a great number of alterations from the various poſſeſſors of the See, ſo that ſcarcely any part of the original building is left entire.

In this city there was alſo a convent and abbey, founded by Elfwida, wife of King Alfred, and dedicated to St. Mary. From this convent, which, from its ruins appears to

have been very extenſive. From this convent, Henry I. married Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, the heireſs of the ancient royal family of the Saxons; and thereby formed an union with the houſe of Normandy. In Wincheſter, there are ſeveral other buildings of antiquity, but of leſſer note, for which reaſon, I ſhall paſs them over, and proceed to ſpeak of a ſtructure, half a mile ſouth of the town, where ſtands the hoſpital of St. Croſs, an ancient and extenſive building. It was founded by Henry De Blois, in 1136, for the reſidence and maintenance of thirteen poor men, with proviſion for one hundred others to dine every day. This eſtabliſhment was altered by Biſhop Toclive in 1185, and an additional number of penſioners, of both deſcriptions, were added. In 1444, Cardinal Beaufort alſo gave ample endowments, and greatly increaſed the number of objects. Henry VI. added five hundred pounds per annum to its revenues, and entitled it the Alms-houſe of Noble Poverty. Now, however, this well-endowed houſe maintains only a maſter, nine poor brethren,

and four out-penſioners. The church is a venerable and curious ſpecimen of Saxon architecture. It is in the form of a croſs, with ailes; the nave is one hundred and fifty feet long, and the trancept one hundred and twenty.

Leaving St. Croſs, I took the road through Compton, and the pleaſant village of Hurſley. At this place the Biſhop of Wincheſter had formerly a park and caſtle, called Merdon, the ſcite of which is now a farm. Theſe, together with the village, became the property of Richard, the ſon of Oliver Cromwell, in conſequence of his marriage with the eldeſt daughter of Richard Major, eſq. then lord of the manor. Richard Cromwell was buried in the pariſh-church, which, with the houſe, was elegantly rebuilt by Sir William Heathcote, father of Sir Thomas, the preſent poſſeſſor. The wood and verdure in this park, are beautiful and luxuriant.

Paſſing Otterborne, I proceeded to Stoneham, the Ad Lapidam of the Ancients.

Here were concealed the two infant brothers of Arvandus, a petty prince of the Iſle of Wight, after eſcaping the maſſacre on that iſland. Being betrayed, however, they were at laſt put to death by order of Ceadwalla. Prior to their execution, Abbot Cymberth, taking pity on their innocence, prevailed on their executioner to let them be baptized at his monaſtery, at Redford, now called Redbridge.

At North Stoneham, John Fleming, eſq. has a handſome houſe, and extenſive park, well ſtocked with deer. Judiciouſly placed, on an eminence at the extremity of the latter, ſtands a ſummer-houſe, from which the view is extenſive, and well contraſted; and here I firſt deſcried the place of my deſtination, enriched with the proſpect of Southampton water and the new foreſt on the right, whilſt, on the left, Portſmouth, Portſea, Goſport, Spithead, bounded with the whole extent of the Iſle of Wight, Solent ſea, St. Helen's road, the coaſt of Suſſex, and Portſdown hills,

were alſo diſtinguiſhable. I arrived too at a fortunate moment, for the day being fine, and the ſun declining, nature was profuſe in that variety of beautiful tints, which a lover of the arts ſo much admires, together with the view of near four hundred ſail of veſſels of various deſcriptions, rendered the ſcene truly pictureſque and enchanting.

Farther on the left, is Portſwood-houſe, the ſeat of General Stibbert, in whoſe grounds, on the banks of the Itchen, are the ſmall remains of a priory, dedicated to St. Dionyſius. On the oppoſite ſhore, once a Roman ſtation, is Bittern. Near it paſſes the Via Icenorum, or Ikelind-ſtreet, a Roman way, which extended from Tinmouth, in Northumberland, to Wincheſter and Southampton. Before you enter the town, are Bevis Mount (or Padwell) the ſeat of Edward Horne, eſq. and Belleviie, the reſidence of Sir Richard King. Each of theſe, in particular points of view, makes an intereſting appearance.

Having travelled twelve miles, I arrived at Southampton, anciently called Hanton, from its ſituation on the Teſe, or Anton, and the Arle, or Itchen. The old town is allowed to be the Clauſentum of the Romans, which was ſituated more eaſt, on the ground near St. Mary's church, which ſtill retains the ancient privilege of being the mother church of Southampton.

The old town, which had ſuffered repeatedly by the ravages of the Danes, at an early period, was at length demoliſhed by the French and Genoeſe, A.D. 1338, during the conteſt between Edward III. and Philip de Valois, for the crown of France. As this ſtory may poſſibly afford the reader ſome amuſement, I ſhall relate it in the author's words:

" The fourth of October, fiftie galleyes
" well maned and furniſhed came to South-
" ampton, about nine of the clocke, and
" ſacked the towne, the townſmen running

" away for feare; by the breake of the next
" day they which fled, by the help of the
" country thereabouts came againſt the py-
" rates and fought them, in which ſkirmiſh
" were ſlaine to the number of three hun-
" dred pyrates, together with their captaine,
" a young ſoldiour, the Kinge of Sicilie's
" ſonne: to this young man the French
" Kinge had given whatever he got in the
" kingdome of England; but he being
" beaten down by a certaine man of the
" countrey, cried Rancon: yea (quoth he,
" I know well enough thou art a Francon
" and therefore ſhalt thou dye) for he un-
" derſtood not his ſpeech, neither had he
" any ſkill to take a gentleman priſoner and
" keep them for their ranſome; wherefore
" the riſidue of theſe Gennowayes, after
" they had ſet the towne a fire, and burned
" it quite, fledde to their galleyes; and in
" flying certaine of them was drowned; and
" after this the inhabitants of the towne
" compaſſed it about with a ſtrong and great
" wall."

To preſerve the new town, which was built ſoon after, from the like calamity, it was fortified with an embattled wall, built with ſtone, and flanked with towers. It was alſo, in many places, fenced by a double ditch; and Richard II. in aid of the undertaking, not only granted the inhabitants ſeveral of the duties paid at that port, but alſo built a ſtrong caſtle, at his own private expence, for the defence of the harbour.

The preſent town, in point of convenience, is much to be preferred; as on the weſt and ſouth it is waſhed by Southampton water, and, at a ſhort diſtance towards the eaſt, by the river Itchen. It had originally ſeven gates, of which ſix now remain; and the ſtrong walls, which once incloſed it, may yet be traced quite round the town.

Bar-gate, by which you enter the principal ſtreet, is not much impaired by time. Over it, is the town-hall, and the priſon for debtors. The ſtreet, which is wide, and

well paved, and three quarters of a mile in length, has a ſtriking appearance. Here are good private houſes, and inns, ſhops of every deſcription, and a handſome market houſe, well ſupplied with proviſions three days in the week.

At the end of this ſtreet, is Water-gate, which has been ſtrongly fortified with a portcullis, and machicolated. This joins the quay, on which ſtands the cuſtom-houſe. Veſſels of conſiderable burthen may unload very commodiouſly. Packets, with the mail for the Iſle of Wight, ſail from this place, every day, except Monday, at ſeven in the morning; and there are boats which go to Portſmouth three times a week. The packet alſo ſails from hence for Jerſey, Guernſey, Alderney, and Sark; a conſiderable trade being carried on with thoſe places, and the merchants having agents at this town, to tranſact their buſineſs. Going to the right when you return from the quay, you paſs God's houſe-gate, and approach South-gate,

which is converted into the town-priſon. Near this, but much neglected, is a platform of cannon, one of them in ſeveral reſpects curious. It is mounted on a ſingular kind of carriage, bearing the arms of England and France, quarterly, ſupported by a griffin and a greyhound, under which is the following inſcription.

HENRICUS VIII.
ANGLIE. FRAN
CIE. ET HIBERN
IE. REX FIDEI. DE
FENSOR. INVICT
ISSIMVS. FF.

MDXXXII
HR. VIII

COLOVRINA. 4 Q 14

Beyond the platform, is a pleaſant walk, much frequented in the ſummer evenings, on account of its delightful ſituation on the banks of the river Itchen, and under the ſhade of a double row of trees. The village of *Hithe*, on the other ſide of Southampton water, and the woods on the oppoſite ſhore

of the Itchen, are viewed from hence to great advantage. This walk terminates at the ferry, acroſs the Itchen, where Queen Elizabeth built the croſs houſe for the accommodation of paſſengers, waiting for the ferry-boat. From this place, you return into the town by Chapel mill. Half a mile farther, at *Northam*, is a large dock-yard, where ſeveral ſhips of war have been built for government by contract. In the ſuburb of St. Mary, leading to Eaſt-ſtreet, there ſtood a gate, which bore the ſame name, but which has been taken down ſome years. It is ſaid to have been a curious ſtructure. Weſt Quay gate, which has ſuffered much by time, appears to have been once a very ſtrong fabric. In the way to it, you paſs the ancient cellars, once uſed for the ſtowage of tin, and alum foil, of which great quantities were manufactured at this place; but they are now occupied as warehouſes, for the wool brought from the Iſle of Wight. Henry VI. in the thirty-firſt year of his reign, ſeized on the tin and alum foil, and ſold it for his own uſe; allowing, as a compen-

ſation to the merchants, whoſe property it legally was, the duties and ſole privilege of importing and exporting various articles at the port of Southampton, until they were reimburſed the full value of their goods. Near this ſpot, are the aſſembly rooms and baths, which are commodious, and well adapted for public uſe. In the neighbourhood too, is another ſmall gate, and, on a mount, not far off, where ſtood the caſtle, which has long been deſtroyed, a handſome pleaſure-houſe was built, in the year 1741. From the roof of this, every part of the town and adjacent country, may be viewed with ſo great advantage, that I would recommend every ſtranger to viſit it. A ſhort time ſpent in ſurveying the ſurrounding objects, will convey a more correct idea of the place, than can be acquired by any other means.

Southampton contains five churches: St. Lawrence's, Holy Rood, and All Saints, ſtand in the high ſtreet; St. Michael's is in the ſquare, and St. Mary's in the eaſt ſuburb.

All Saints church is now rebuilding, on a plan which does great honour to the abilities of Mr. Revely, the architect.

A convent of Franciſcans or Grey Friars, was founded here, A.D. 1240. This order originated in the penitentiary ſacrifices of a debauched youth, of the name of Francis, who was born at Aſſiſy, in Umbria, and who was diſinherited for robbing his father. Stung with remorſe, however, for the profligacy of his life, he retired, in the year 1206, to a little chapel, near Aſſiſy, called Our Lady of the Angels. Here he led ſo rigid a life, that, in a ſhort time, he attracted many admirers, and at laſt followers and companions, of whom he made himſelf the head, and formed a ſet of rules, for the regulation of this order, which, in a ſhort time, became a very numerous body.

Near this, is God's houſe, a very ancient eſtabliſhment, founded by Roger Hampton. The deed, which is in the archives of the

corporation, is ſo decayed by time, that the date cannot be made out. By a charter of Edward III. however, it was granted to Queen's college, Oxford, with a proviſo, that, out of the rents, a fund ſhould be formed for the maintenance of ſuch poor ſcholars of the college, as had the misfortune to labour under incurable diſorders. God's houſe, at preſent, conſiſts of a warden, four old men, and the ſame number of women, who each have an allowance of two ſhillings a week, and lodging.

In the chapel of St. Julian at this place, were interred the bodies of Richard Earl of Cambridge, Sir Thomas Grey, and Lord Scrope, after their execution, for a conſpiracy againſt the life of Henry V. when he was preparing to embark for France. To carry on this deſign, it is ſaid, the ſum of one million, in gold, was remitted them from France. They were greatly in the king's confidence, but the Earl of March, one of the conſpirators, foreſeeing the con-

ſequences which would follow to the nation if this bloody tranſaction were accompliſhed, revealed the whole plot. Earl Cambridge and Sir Thomas Grey were beheaded, and Lord Scrope was hanged, drawn, and quartered.

Southampton contains ſeveral other public foundations, which it is unneceſſary to deſcribe minutely. On the ſhore, it is ſaid, Canute the Great, wiſely reproved the flattery of his courtiers, who ſervilely endeavoured to perſuade him, that all nature, even the waves of the ſea, muſt obey his mandate.

Domeſday-book ſtates, that in the year 1080, Southampton had but eighty men, tenants in demeſne. Either the ruinous condition in which it was left by the Danes, or the ſubſequent impediments to its reeſtabliſhment, muſt have occaſioned this. However, when the nation was more ſettled, the inhabitants applied to commerce, and their firſt object was to be incorporated, or,

as it was then called, to be made a Guild, by which certain liberties, excluſive privileges and immunities were ſecured to them.

Their firſt charter was granted by Henry II. and it was afterwards confirmed by Richard I. King John, Edward III. and Richard II. But Henry IV. extended their privileges ſtill farther, and theſe were confirmed to them by Henry V. and VI.

To Southampton belonged the ſole privilege of importing canary wines, which the inhabitants even ſupplied to the merchants of the metropolis. It alſo ranked next to the port of London, in the importation of other wines.

According to the laſt charter which was granted by Charles I. though only a confirmation of former charters, the corporation is directed to conſiſt of a mayor, recorder, ſheriff, and two bailiffs. Perſons who have ſerved any of thoſe offices become mem-

bers of the common council, which is unlimited with reſpect to number. The corporation have a power of chooſing burgeſſes, who, though not members of the common council, are yet of the corporation, and have votes. There are eleven juſtices of the peace, to wit, the mayor, the biſhop of Wincheſter, the recorder, the laſt mayor for the time being, five aldermen, and two burgeſſes. All who have paſſed the chair are aldermen, and beſides thoſe already mentioned, there are ſeveral officers, ſuch as the town clerk, four ſerjeants at mace, a town crier, &c.

This borough was made a county in itſelf, independent of the lord lieutenant and ſheriff of the ſhire, by Henry II. and this right was confirmed by King John and his ſucceſſors.

It returns to parliament two members, who are elected by the inhabitants paying ſcot and lot. The mayor is admiral of the

liberties from South Sea Caſtle to Hurſt Caſtle.

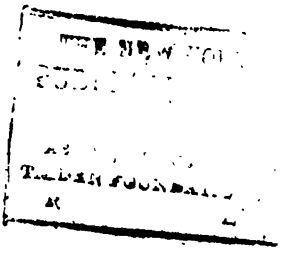
Since the year 1067, Southampton has given the title of Earl to the families of Beauvois, Fitzwilliams, and Wriotheſley; but in 1675, Charles Fitzroy, eldeſt natural ſon of King Charles II. by the Ducheſs of Cleveland, was created Duke of Southampton. At preſent the title of Lord Southampton exiſts in the perſon of Charles Fitzroy, a relation of the Duke of Grafton, created a Baron, in 1780, by his preſent Majeſty.

Of this place nothing farther need be ſaid, than that it ſupplies every kind of accommodation and amuſement, both for valetudinarians and the faſhionable world. The environs of the town and the unfiniſhed Polygon, are pleaſant and airy. The country abounds with deſirable walks, and the means of a variety of pleaſing excurſions on horſeback, or in boats on the water, offer to

ſtrangers an agreeable change of amuſements.

After having ſeen every thing worthy of notice at Southampton, I determined on viſiting, in my way to the iſland, the ruins of Netley Abbey; and as I had already made my obſervations on the oppoſite ſhore of Southampton water, I ordered a boat to wait for me at the Abbey fort, which is three miles diſtant from Southampton, and purſued the foot path to thoſe celebrated ruins.

The road down Eaſt-ſtreet, leads to Itchen-ferry. On the oppoſite ſide of the river ſtands the village of Itchen, conſiſting of a few houſes, chiefly inhabited by fiſhermen. I took the right hand path, through a copſe of conſiderable length, which occaſionally affords different views of Southampton, at the different openings formed by the hand of nature. Theſe varieties of proſpect are extremely intereſting, and would afford many beautiful ſubjects for the pencil.



Drawn & Engraved by Chas. Tomkins.

Published as the Act Directs by C. and J. Kearsley, Fleet Street, 1794

WEST VIEW OF NETLEY ABBEY.

On leaving the copſe, I croſſed ſeveral fields, through an agreeable ſerpentine path, which brought me to the lawn of Woolſon-houſe, one of the ſeats of N. Dance, Eſq. R. A. the proprietor of the eſtate of which Netley-Abbey forms a part. From hence, I deſcended a ſmall hill, through the adjoining fields, which are enlivened with a view of the New-Foreſt and Southampton water, until I came to the rural village of Weſton. I then paſſed acroſs ſeveral meadows, which terminate in an extenſive wood, through which the path is continued for upwards of a mile, winding in various directions. Towards the end of it, the foliage thickens conſiderably, and renders the weſt end of Netley-Abbey, which here firſt ſtrikes the eye of the viſitor of this charmingly ſecluded edifice, extremely pictureſque.

The remains of this Abbey are ſituated in a dell, ſurrounded with various trees, which greatly relieve the building, and add much to its antiquated ſplendour. The path, by

an eaſy deſcent to the left, leads towards the outer gate, which is kept locked to prevent depredations. Mr. Dance's keeper has a ſmall houſe, about a quarter of a mile from the Abbey, where refreſhments are provided; or his family will wait on thoſe parties who bring proviſions for themſelves, and wiſh to regale under the ſhadow of theſe magnificent ruins, which is very frequently done. On entering the outer gate, I croſſed the ſpace formerly occupied by the porter of the Abbey, and paſſed through a ſmaller gate, into a ſpacious cloiſter court. Here, a number of aſh trees, which appear to have grown ſpontaneouſly, aſſiſt greatly in producing that gloomy ſtillneſs ſo highly grateful to the minds of all, who contemplate theſe once ſacred abodes of religion and ſolitude.

On the left of the cloiſter court, are ſeveral doors, which lead to ſmall apartments. On the right ſide, there are likewiſe doors, leading to the chapel and the habitable parts of

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INSIDE VIEW of NETLEY ABBEY.

the building. Paſſing through ſeveral ſquare apartments, I was ſhewn a large vaulted room, which is called the Abbot's kitchen; but from its dark and gloomy appearance, I ſhould rather ſuppoſe it to have been one of the cellars belonging to the Abbey. There is yet remaining in the ſouth aile, a part of the ſtone cieling, in which are ſeveral coats of arms, neatly carved, and in a good ſtate of preſervation. Theſe, and the different ornaments ſcattered about, ſhow that the workmanſhip of the building was ſuperb and well executed. The ſtone is of a cloſe texture and exceedingly firm, and in many parts it has the appearance of having been lately cut.

Of the eaſt window, which is large and handſome, ſome judgment may be formed from the annexed view; but the ſcale of this work is much too ſmall to do juſtice to ſo noble a ſubject.

If the trees in the inſide of the chapel were thinned with judgment, it would give ſome-

what more conſequence to the ruins, and preſerve them alſo from the damp, which ſo large a quantity of ſurrounding foliage communicates.

A ſmall ſtair-caſe ſtill remains, by which you may aſcend to the top of the building, and view the ruins to great advantage.

Here the ivy is luxuriant and pictureſque, and the body of the chapel is ſeen filled with fragments of the building, overgrown with weeds and moſs.

" From the rent roof and portico ſublime,
Where rev'rend ſhrines in gothic grandeur ſtood,
The nettle or the noxious nightſhade ſpreads;
And aſhlings, wafted from the neighbouring wood,
Through the worn turret wave their trembling heads."

Necteleye, Lettley, Netley, or Edwardſtow, is pleaſantly ſituated in the pariſh of Hound, on the eaſtern banks of Southampton water, three miles below the town. Leland and Godwin attribute the founding

of the Abbey to Peter de Rupibus, who died in 1238. But Dugdale and Tanner differ from them in opinion. Thoſe learned antiquaries ſay, that an Abbey for Ciſtertian monks from Beaulieu, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Edward, was founded by Henry III. A.D. 1239, which probably was this very edifice, as the ſituation perfectly agrees with the place where the king is ſaid to have built it. On the ſuppreſſion of this monaſtery, it was occupied by an abbot and twelve monks, whoſe poſſeſſions were valued, according to Dugdale, at £.100 12*s.* 8*d.* but according to Speed, at £.160 2*s.* 9*d.*

The order of Ciſtertian Monks was originally founded by Robert, Abbot of Molſme, who, being tired of the diſſolute life which the monks of that monaſtery led, withdrew himſelf, with twenty-one of his religious companions, into the ſolitudes of Citeaux, five leagues diſtant from the city of Dijon, in Burgundy. Oto I. Duke of Burgundy, endowed this eſtabliſhment with

conſiderable revenues. The monks followed the rule of St. Bennet, with the addition of ſome conſtitutions, framed with the conſent of his brethren, by Stephen III. abbot of this order, and confirmed, in 1107, by Pope Urban II. This order exiſted in England before the year 1132, as, at that time, they had a monaſtery at Riſhval. Their habit was originally black, but it was changed by Barnard, one of their abbots, who pretended, that the Virgin Mary appeared to him, and commanded him, for her ſake, to wear white clothes.

At the reformation, Henry VIII. granted this Abbey and its poſſeſſions to Sir William Paulet. About the middle of the ſixteenth century, it was the ſeat of the Earl of Hereford, and was afterwards fitted up and inhabited by the Marquis of Huntingdon, who, it is ſaid, converted the weſt end of the chapel into a kitchen and other offices, reſerving the eaſt end for ſacred purpoſes. In the year 1700, it came into the poſſeſſion of

Sir Bartlet Lucy, who ſold the materials of the chapel to one Taylor, a carpenter of Southampton, who took off the roof, which, till then, had remained entire. The fate of this artificer, as related by Brown Willis, in his Hiſtory of Mitred Abbeys, I ſhall introduce here, as I found, upon enquiring of ſome of his family, who are now living at Southampton, that the account is a true one:

" During the time that Walter Taylor " was in treaty with Sir Bartlet Lucy, he " was greatly diſturbed by frightful dreams, " as ſome ſay, apparitions, particularly by " that of a perſon in the habit of a monk, " who threatened him with great miſchief if " he perſiſted in his purpoſe: one night in " particular, he dreamed a large ſtone from " one of the windows fell upon him and " killed him. This ſo terrified him, that he " communicated theſe diſturbances to a par- " ticular friend, who adviſed him to deſiſt; " but avarice and the contrary advice of

" other friends, getting the better of his " fears, he concluded the bargain, when, at- " tempting to take out ſome ſtones from " the bottom of the weſt wall, the whole " body of a window fell upon him and " cruſhed him to death."

The ruins of Netley-abbey became afterwards the property of Henry Cliff, eſq. who ſold them to the late Mr. Dummer. They are now in the poſſeſſion of N. Dance, eſq. R.A. who married Mr. Dummer's widow. At ſome diſtance from the building, to the eaſtward, there are large mounds, which appear to have been the heads of fiſh-ponds or reſervoirs for freſh water, the tide of Southampton water being ſalt. A little to the weſtward, on the ſhore of Southampton water, ſtands a ruined caſtle, the ſhell of which now only remains. From its conſtruction, it appears to have been built conſiderably later than the abbey. This ruin conſiſts of a ſquare centre building, which you enter by a flight of ſteps, through a

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NETLEY ABBEY FORT.

ſmall door, that appears to have had a portcullis on the eaſt-ſide. It has likewiſe been defended with a deep moat, a double platform for cannon, and a wing on each ſide, of nearly the ſame dimenſions as the centre, with battlements on the top.

Leaving this place, I reached the ſhore of Southampton water, at the Abbey-fort, of the ſtructure and ſituation of which, the annexed ſketch, taken with a view towards Southampton, will give the reader an idea.

The tide and a gentle breeze being in my favour, I went into the boat, and paſſed Gatlands, a ſeat of Mr. Drummond, the ſituation of which is extremely pleaſant; the new foreſt adorning the right hand ſhore, with a variegated and rich ſcenery. On a hill upon the left hand, ſtands Hamble-church, a plain building, with a ſquare tower, which ſerves as a land-mark. Mrs. York, is building a handſome houſe on the ſhore, not very diſtant from that part

of the Hamble-river, which joins Southampton water.

Moored at the mouth of this river, is a handſome veſſel, the property of Governor Hornby, who has an elegant houſe, in the pariſh of Hook, at the extreme point of land on the left of the mouth of Southampton water, which, in this part, is about two miles acroſs. Nearly oppoſite to Hook, I ſtopped to take a drawing of Calſhot-caſtle, and a diſtant proſpect of the Iſle of Wight, which form the fourth view in this work. I afterwards landed to ſee the caſtle, which is ſituated on a neck of land projecting into the Solent ſea, at the entrance of Southampton water. It was built in the reign of Henry VIII. for the defence of this part of the coaſt and Southampton harbour. The platform, where the large cannon are mounted, is a polygon, ſurrounded by a moat, the upper part, which is at preſent fitted up for the officer, is circular. From the top of it, I had an extenſive view to the

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eaſt and weſt, and alſo of the whole extent of the Iſle of Wight, which appears to great advantage.

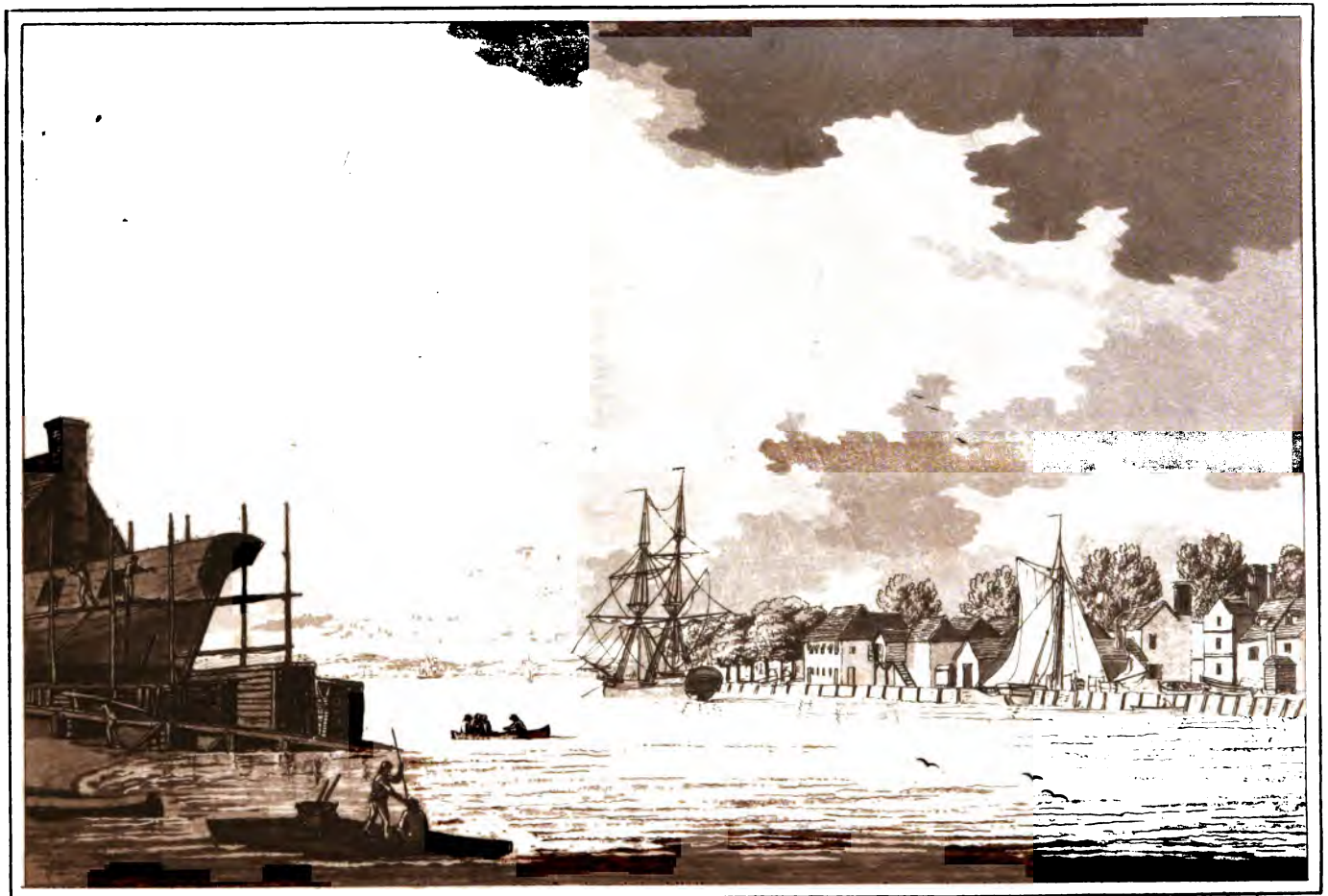
Taking water again, I approached the Brambles, a ſand-bank which runs nearly up to Spithead. Here the maſts of a collier, which was bound to Southampton, and loſt on theſe ſands, are ſtill ſeen.

" Now favour'd with a mild propitious gale,
We to the breeze expand the ſwelling ſail;
The land recedes—the veſſel ſeems to ſleep,
Smooth, gliding o'er the ſurface of the deep;
Near, and more near, advancing Vecta moves,
Along her ſhores the eye delighted roves;
Secure from ſtorms, here lies the circling bay,
Fair rural views aſcending from the ſea;
There lowering rocks a threat'ning ruin ſhow,
And here the daſhing ſurges rage below."

Approaching the ſhore, Cowes-harbour and the village make a ſtriking appearance, the houſes being built in irregular ranges above each other, on a riſing ground, intermixed with gardens and lofty trees.

Covering the oppoſite ſhore of the Medina, is the village of Eaſt-Cowes, at which place, all the cuſtom-houſe duties are paid, for the ſhips that arrive in the harbour. On the high ground above the village, Mr. Aljoe has built a houſe, the proſpect from which, to the weſtward, is very extenſive. The village of Eaſt Cowes, the River Medina, and Weſt-Cowes, form agreeable and buſy ſcenes, enlivened ſtill more by the veſſels continually paſſing, and the boats from the ſhipping, which lie at anchor in Cowes-road. This place is the general reſort of foreign veſſels, owing to the convenience of the ſituation and tides, which enable them to turn out either to the eaſtward or weſtward, without difficulty.

After two hours ſailing, I arrived at Weſt-Cowes, a village conſiſting of one ſtreet, chiefly inhabited by tradeſmen, who ſupply the ſhipping that arrive, with any article they may want. At this place, there is a private dock-yard, which, within the laſt



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COWES HARBOUR.

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ſixty years, has contributed to the Britiſh navy, the following ſhips of war, namely, the Vanguard of ſeventy guns, the Repulſe of ſixty-four, the Saliſbury of fifty, the Cerberus and Aſtrea of thirty-two, the Andromeda of twenty-eight, the Veteran of ſixty-four guns, and the Experiment of forty-four; beſides a number of ſmaller veſſels.

The chief imports of the Iſland, are timber, deals, and iron. Theſe articles, which are deſtined for Dorſetſhire, and Suſſex, are landed at this port, on account of its accommodation for loading and unloading. Of late years, conſiderable quantities of wine, ſome cargoes of hemp, and alſo fruits from Spain and Portugal, have been conſigned hither. Before the ſeparation of the American colonies from Great-Britain, there annually arrived from Georgia and South Carolina, a number of veſſels laden with rice, whoſe cargoes were computed at thirty or forty thouſand barrels. The rice was landed, opened, ſkreened, and repacked; and

generally ſhipped again for Holland, Germany, or ſome of the French ports. Theſe ſhips likewiſe brought tobacco, deer-ſkins, ſtaves, indigo, pitch, tar, and various other articles. Since the eſtabliſhment of the independence of America, the port of Cowes has been deprived of the advantages of theſe beneficial imports. The articles exported from the Iſland, conſiſt of wheat, flour, malt, barley, wool, and ſalt; of which large quantities are ſhipped for France, Spain, Portugal, and the ports in the Mediterranean.

There are two inns at Weſt-Cowes, and a number of lodging-houſes, for the accommodation of ſtrangers, who, of late years, have frequented it as a bathing-place, in which reſpect, beſides the conveniences common for ſea bathing, it poſſeſſes the ſingular advantage of a ſhore, on which parties may bathe at any ſtate of the tide.

Cowes-caſtle, which ſtands near the bathing place, was built by Henry VIII. as a pro-

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COWES CASTLE.

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tection to the port. It conſiſts of a ſmall battery, in the form of a creſcent, which mounts a few cannon. The circular tower and ſquare building, are occupied by the officer and gunner. In the upper part of this town, are ſeveral neat houſes, inhabited by different gentlemen, which poſſeſs great advantages in point of proſpect. One of theſe on the ſea-ſhore, called *Egypt*, is a delightful ſummer reſidence.

This Iſland, known to us by the name of the Iſle of *Wight*, was called by the Britons, *Guith*; by the Romans, Vecta, or Vectis, and by the Saxons, Pitland, and Wicp-Ea. This, which is the largeſt and moſt valuable of the appendant Britiſh Iſlands, is ſituated oppoſite the ſouth coaſt of England, from which it is ſeparated by a channel, varying in breadth, from one mile to ſeven, formerly called the Solent Sea. It forms a part of the county of Southampton, or Hampſhire, and is within the Dioceſe of Wincheſter. The figure

of the Iſland, is an irregular lozenge; in length from eaſt to weſt, upwards of twenty-two miles, and in breadth, from north to ſouth, in the wideſt part, near fourteen miles. It is reckoned to contain a hundred and thirty thouſand acres of land, and poſſeſſes every variety of ſoil that can be found in any other part of Great-Britain. Its fertility is ſo remarkable, that it has been ſaid to produce, in one year, enough to ſupply the conſumption of its inhabitants, for eight years; but the preſent produce, from the many improvements which have been made in agriculture, muſt conſiderably exceed the former computation. Extending from the eaſt to the weſt end of the Iſland, we ſee a range of downs, from ſeveral parts of which, particularly Aſhey, Bucombe, and St. Catharine's, nearly the whole coaſt of the Iſland may be ſeen, together with the adjacent ſhores of Dorſetſhire, Hampſhire, and Suſſex. Theſe downs afford excellent paſture for ſheep, of which there are great numbers bred in the

Iſland. The lambs are ſent to different markets, and ſome thouſands are annually carried to London. Their wool, which is ſcarcely inferior to that of Leominſter, and Cotſwold, ſupplies the different cloathing towns in Dorſetſhire and Devonſhire, with many thouſand tods yearly, and is ſold in the fleece. Every ſpecies of fiſh that is found on the Engliſh coaſts is caught here, and the ſouthern ſide of the Iſland abounds with ſuch plenty of ſhell-fiſh, that a village has obtained the name of *Crab* Niton, from the abundance of crabs which are caught near it.

Some years back, this place was well furniſhed with game of all ſorts, but it has been much thinned of late, by the great number of ſportſmen that have traverſed the Iſland for their amuſement. It has been remarked, however, that there is neither fox, badger, nor pole-cat, to aſſiſt in their deſtruction. In the months of May, June, July, and Auguſt, great numbers of ſea birds aſſemble to take

advantage of the ſolar rays, on the ſouth-ſide of the Iſland, to breed up their young. Poultry of every denomination is bred here, to the great accommodation of the veſſels anchoring at the different ports, and at St. Helen's, and the Mother Bank.

Formerly, there was plenty of timber upon the Iſland; but being ſituated ſo near to Portſmouth dock-yard, the conſumption of that place and of its own private yards, for ſhip building, has reduced it to a quantity ſcarcely ſufficient for private conſumption. The water, of which there are various ſprings equal in purity to that of Briſtol, I have been informed, has frequently undergone the experiment of a Weſt-India voyage, and returned in a pure and wholeſome ſtate.

The preſent diviſion of the Iſle of Wight, is into two hundreds, ſeparated by the courſe of the River Mede, Medham, or, as it is now called, Medina, which riſing near

the bottom of St. Catharine's down, runs northward, and diſcharges itſelf into the channel, between Eaſt and Weſt Cowes. Theſe hundreds are diſtinguiſhed by the names of Eaſt and Weſt Medina, according to their ſituation in reſpect to that River. Formerly the eaſt was called Hommerſwell, and the weſt, Bowcomb hundred. In Doomſday-book, mention is made of a third hundred, lying in that of Bowcomb, and called Cauborn hundred; probably on account of its belonging to the ſee of Wincheſter, and thence enjoying peculiar immunities. The Iſland at preſent contains thirty pariſhes, ſome of which are ſmall, and have obtained the denomination of ſeparate pariſhes, merely from having diſtinct parochial rates. The following is a liſt of the names of the pariſhes as they are ſituated in the two hundreds.

Eaſt Medina.	*Weſt Medina.*
Arreton	Brixton
Binſtead	Brook
Bonechurch	Calborne
Brading	Chale
Godſhill	Cariſbrook
Newchurch	Freſhwater
Niton	Gatcombe
Shanklin	Kingſton
St. Helen's	Mottiſton
St. Laurence	Newport
Whippingham	Northwood
Whitwell	St. Nicholas
Wootton	Shorwell
Yaveland	Shalfleet
	Thorley
	Yarmouth.

According to the beſt information I can collect, the inhabitants are about twenty thouſand in number. The population has

therefore increaſed conſiderably ſince the year 1377, when the number was aſcertained to be no more than ſeven thouſand and ninety-nine. The inhabitants cannot be ſuppoſed to differ from thoſe of the adjacent country, the diſtance being too ſmall to cauſe any variation, and the conſtant intercourſe with the metropolis having eraſed all the inſular peculiarities that might have exiſted formerly. Their hoſpitality ſtands unrivalled; and indeed no part of Great Britain can boaſt a more univerſal exerciſe of the ſocial virtues than this Iſland, which ſeems highly favoured by nature in every reſpect.

" Nor, Vecta, be thy generous ſons unſung,
To whom the manly graces all belong;
Courage to act and prudence to controul,
The ſocial temper, and the friendly ſoul;
Their language pure, their ſentiments refin'd,
Nor leſs complete in perſon than in mind;
Of comely ſize; to health, to vigour known;
Untainted with the vices of the Town.
View in thy daughters fair proportion riſe,
The ſnowy boſom, and the ſparkling eyes;

And midſt the bloom of beauty and of youth,
Mild modeſt virtue, and unſullied truth;
With ev'ry grace adorn'd and nameleſs art
To charm the ſenſe, and captivate the heart;
Loves round them ſport, in innocence they ſmile,
And crown the glories of the happy Iſle."

The Iſle of Wight has been ſtated, by various writers of eminence, to have formerly joined the main land of Great Britain, and to have been gradually disjoined by the encroachments of the ſea, which is there called the Solent, or more properly the *Solvent* ſea, from the Latin verb *ſolvere*, to looſen or ſet at liberty. To give the reader as correct an idea of every thing relative to this Iſland as poſſible, I ſhall introduce the opinions of two very ingenious writers on this ſubject.

Mr. Borlaſe, in his Natural Hiſtory of Cornwall, expreſſes his ſentiments concerning the Iſle of Wight in the following argument. "The ſhort deſcription which we have of the tin trade in Diodorus Siculus, muſt not be

omitted, though it is too general for us to learn many particulars from it. Theſe men, (ſays he, meaning the tinners), manufacture their tin, by working the grounds, which produce it, with great art; for though the land is rocky, it has ſoft veins of earth running through it, in which the tinners find the treaſure, extract, melt and purify it; then ſhaping it, by moulds, into a kind of cubical figure, they carry it off to a certain Iſland, lying near the Britiſh ſhore, which they call Ictis. For at the receſs of the tide, the ſpace betwixt the Iſland and the main land being dry, the tinners embrace the opportunity, and carry the tin in carts, as faſt as may be, over to the Ictis or port; for it muſt be obſerved, that the Iſlands which lie betwixt the Continent and Britain have this ſingularity, that when the tide is full they are real Iſlands, but when the ſea retires they are all but ſo many peninſulas. From this Iſland the merchants buy their tin of the natives, and export it into Gaul, and finally through Gaul, by a journey of about thirty

days, they bring it down on horſes, to the mouth of the Erydanus, meaning the Rhone. In this deſcription it will naturally occur to the inquiſitive reader, to aſk where this Ictis was, to which the Corniſh carried their melted tin in carts, and there ſold it to the merchants. I really cannot inform him; but by the Ictis here, it is plain, that the hiſtorian could not mean the Ictis or Vectis of the Ancients, at preſent called the Iſle of Wight: for he is ſpeaking of the Britons of Cornwall, and, by the words, it ſhould ſeem thoſe of the moſt weſtern parts; Της ναρ Βρετανικης κατα το ακρωτηρου το καλȣμενον Βελεριον οι ματοικȣντες, &c. Ουτοι τον κοσσιτερον κατασκευαζȣσι Φιλοτεκνας, &c. that is, thoſe who live at the extreme end of Britain, called Belerium, (now called the Lands' End,) find, dreſs, melt, carry, and ſell their tin, &c. Now it would be abſurd to think theſe inhabitants ſhould carry in carts their tin, nearly two hundred miles, for ſo diſtant is the Iſle of Wight from them, when they had at leaſt as good ports and harbours on their own ſhores, as they

could meet with there; beſides, the inhabitants are ſaid in the ſame paragraph, to have been more than ordinarily civilized by converſing with ſtrangers and merchants. Thoſe merchants then muſt have been very converſant in Cornwall; there trafficked for tin, that is there bought, and thence exported the tin, or they could have no buſineſs there: their reſidence would have been in ſome of the ports of Hampſhire, and Cornwall would ſcarce have felt the influence of their manners, much leſs have been improved and civilized by them at that diſtance. Again, the Corniſh, after the tin was melted, carried it, at low water, over the Iƈtis, in carts; this will by no means ſuit the ſituation of the Iſle of Wight, which is at leaſt two miles diſtant from the main land; and never, ſo far as we can learn, has been alternately an iſland and a peninſula, as the tide is in and out. The Iƈtis, therefore, here mentioned, muſt lie ſomewhere near the coaſt of Cornwall; and muſt either have been a general name for any peninſula or creek, (*Ik* being

a common Corniſh word, denoting a cove, creek, or port of traffick), or the name of ſome particular peninſula and common emporium on the ſame coaſt, which has now loſt its iſthmus, name, and perhaps wholly diſappeared, by means of ſome great alterations on the ſea ſhore of this country." The opinion of Mr. Whitaker differs much from this. In his Hiſtory of Mancheſter, after mentioning that the Phœnicians had continued the tin trade on the coaſts of Scilly for three hundred years, ſays " The Greeks of Marſeilles, firſt followed the track of the Phœnician voyagers, and before the days of Polybius, and about two hundred years before the age of Chriſt, began to ſhare with them in the trade of tin. The Carthaginian commerce declined.—The Maſſylian commerce increaſed; and in the reign of Auguſtus, the whole current of the Britiſh traffick had been gradually diverted into this channel. Two roads were laid acroſs the country, and reached from Sandwich to Car-

narvon on the one ſide, and extended from Dorſetſhire into Suffolk on the other. The great Staple of tin was no longer ſettled in a diſtant corner of the Iſland. It was removed from Scilly, and was fixed at the Iſle of Wight, a central part of the coaſt, lying equally betwixt the two roads, and better adapted to the new arrangement of the trade. Thither the tin was carried by the Belgæ, and thither the foreign merchants reſorted with their wares." He adds further, "that the Iſle of Wight, which, as late as the eighth century, was ſeparated from the remainder of Hampſhire by a channel no leſs than three miles in breadth, was now actually a part of the greater Iſland; disjoined from it only by the tide, and united to it always at the ebb. And during the receſs of the waters, the Britons conſtantly paſſed over the low iſthmus of land, and carried their loaded carts of tin acroſs it."

A gentleman of the iſland, in ſupport of Mr. Whitaker's opinion, has remarked, that

at each extremity of the channel, between the iſland and Hampſhire, the tide ruſhes in and out with ſuch impetuoſity, as to render theſe parts the deepeſt and moſt dangerous; but in the midway, where the tides meet, though the conflict occaſions rough water, according as the wind may happen to aſſiſt the one or the other, there is no rapidity of current to carry away the ſoil and deepen the bottom. Nearly acroſs the channel, a gravelly beach extends, which is only found in this part and on the oppoſite ſhore of Hampſhire, at a place called Leap. This probably was the narrow paſs before alluded to, and along which, the Corniſh men tranſported their tin to the Iſle of Wight.

Oppoſite to this place, is a ſtraight open road above two miles in length, called Rew Street. This road runs quite acroſs the foreſt of Parkhurſt, and may be eaſily traced to the weſt of Cariſbrook caſtle, over a field called North-Field, by Sheat, and from thence to the South part of the iſland. No uſe is at

preſent made of many parts of this road, and unleſs it was eſpecially made for the conveyance of the tin, it is not eaſy to conceive what purpoſe it was to anſwer. To prove that the Staple of tin was brought into Hampſhire, there is undoubted authority; but, that a port on the South ſide of the iſland, to which this road is ſuppoſed to lead, was the place from whence the tin was exported, is a ſuppoſition that wants confirmation. No part of the South coaſt of the iſland ſeems adapted for a ſea port, and the fact is ſtill more to be doubted when we reflect on the convenience of the port of Southampton for that purpoſe; for ſurely our anceſtors muſt have known their own intereſt and convenience better than to have given themſelves unneceſſary trouble in conveying ſo ponderous an article by land, without deriving any particular advantage from that mode. It is alſo known, that the office of the Stannaries, was not removed from Southampton till the fifteenth century.

The Iſle of Wight not having been under any other government than that of Britain, has therefore no ſeparate hiſtory of its own. As connected with the Hiſtory of England indeed, we find this iſland mentioned occaſionally in the Roman, Saxon, and other annals, of the ancient ſituation of the country; but the accounts are few and unconnected: whole centuries ſometimes intervening, without any mention being made of it. For the ſatisfaction of our readers, however, we ſhall give a detail of ſuch particulars as we have been able to collect from the ſcattered relics of antiquity, and in the order of time in which they occurred.

Very little is known of the hiſtory of Britain before the landing of Julius Cæſar, about fifty-five years before the birth of Chriſt; nor have we any account of the Romans having entered the Iſle of Wight, until near a century afterwards, when Claudius, the Emperor of Rome, in the year 43, ſent an

army into Britain under Plautius, who, after various ſucceſſes againſt Togodumnus and Caractacus, two kings of Britain, was recalled to Rome, and received the honour of an oration or inferior triumph, has the reward of his ſervices. Tacitus, in his Life of Agricola, informs us, that Plautius fought thirty battles with the Britons, ſubdued two powerful nations, and conquered the Iſle of Wight. We are not told of any oppoſition that Plautius met with in the iſland, nor indeed is it to be ſuppoſed that the inhabitants were capable of any effectual reſiſtance to the powerful and victorious legions of Rome, who, moſt probably, entered the iſland without any difficulty, from the Hampſhire coaſt, after having ſubdued that county. And this conjecture is the more probable, as no appearances exiſt, in any part of the iſland, of thoſe fortified camps in which the Romans never failed to ſecure themſelves, when they had an enemy oppoſed to them, and which are to be found in ſo many other parts of England.

The dominion of the Romans over Britain, continued from this period till about the year 426; and it is probable, that during that ſpace of time, the Iſle of Wight remained peaceably under their ſubjection.

For more than twenty years after the Romans withdrew themſelves, the Britons were continually harraſſed by the Picts and Scots, who coming from the Northern part of the iſland, do not, however, appear to have penetrated ſo far as the Iſle of Wight. At length, the Britons, having invited the Saxons to aſſiſt them againſt the Northern depredators, the latter began alſo to ſettle in Britain, and formed ſeveral kingdoms for themſelves.

In 495, Cerdic, a Saxon General, arrived in Britain. He landed with his ſon Cenric, at a place which was thence called *Cerdic's Ora*, which Camden ſuppoſes to have been Yarmouth, in Norfolk; but ſome other authors imagine it to have been near South-

ampton; and Gibſon, in his Gloſſary, at the end of the Saxon Annals, with great appearance of probability, ſtates it to have been Calſhot, of which we have already ſpoken.

After a variety of alternate ſucceſſes and defeats, Cerdic, in the year 519, gained a great victory over the Britons under Auther, one of their leaders, at a place called by the Saxons, *Cerdic's-ford*, (now Chardford) in Hampſhire, where he had before defeated the Britons in 508. In conſequence of thi victory, the counties of Hampſhire and Somerſetſhire were ſurrendered to Cerdic, who formed, of them, the kingdom of Weſſex, to which, in the year 828, the reſt of the kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy were ſubjected.

In 530, Cerdic having attacked and ſubdued the Iſle of Wight, deſtroyed the greateſt part of the inhabitants; and having invited over from Germany a conſiderable number of Saxons and Jules, he diſtributed a great

part of the latter through this iſland, the government of which he conferred on his nephews Stuff and Withgar, who had brought him a conſiderable reinforcement from the Continent in the year 514, and ſerved him with great fidelity ſince his laſt victory at Cerdic's-ford, to which they had themſelves been very inſtrumental.

Withgar, in all probability, continued in the government of the iſland till his death, as he was buried in the town, which was named from him *Withgaraburgh*, and is now, by contraction, called Cariſbrook.

Wulfer, who ſucceeded his father Penda in the kingdom of Mereia, in 659, took the Iſle of Wight from Cenowalch, king of Weſſex; and about the year 661, made a preſent of it to Adelwalch, king of Suſſex, whom he had ſubdued and held in captivity.

In 686, Cedwalla, king of Weſſex, attacked the Iſle of Wight, which had been in the

poſſeſſion of the kings of Suſſex from the time it had been granted to Adelwalch by Wulfer; and though it was defended by the Governor Arwald, brother of Auther, king of Suſſex, Cedwalla took it by the ſuperiority of his forces.

Upon the firſt impulſe of his zeal for religion, Cedwalla determined to exterminate the inhabitants of the iſland who had not embraced Chriſtianity, and to people it with Chriſtians; but in conſequence of the humane advice of Widfrid, Biſhop of Selſey, in Suſſex, he was induced to ſpare the lives of ſuch of them as would conſent to be baptized immediately. Birwin, nephew of Widfred, was ſent into the iſland to convert the inhabitants, who, wiſely preferring the Chriſtian Religion to death, ceaſed from that time to be idolaters. In how many inſtances, in the hiſtory of all countries, have the capricious inclinations and opinions of Princes been the occaſion of a change in Religion!

It is ſaid, that, in the reign of Alfred, a fleet of Daniſh pirates plundered the Iſle of Wight. In the ſucceeding reign, of Ethelred II. the Danes again made themſelves maſters of it, as well as of Hampſhire and Dorſetſhire. In theſe places they kept their magazines, and from thence they made frequent excurſions into the adjoining counties, which they ravaged without oppoſition.

During the reign of Edward the Confeſſor, in 1052, Earl Godwin, being baniſhed by the king, retired to Flanders, where, having obtained ſome ſhips from the Earl of that country, he made a deſcent on the Iſle of Wight, and extorted very large ſums of money from the inhabitants, whilſt he was waiting there for his ſon Harold.

In 1066, Toſton, or Toſti, Earl of Northumberland, having been driven out of that county, procured ſeveral ſhips from the ſame Earl of Flanders, who was his father-in-

law. With theſe he infeſted the Engliſh coaſt for ſome time, and plundered the Iſle of Wight.

For a conſiderable length of time after this took place, the iſland appears to have remained in a ſtate of perfect tranquillity. In 1070, William the Conqueror beſtowed it, together with the Earldom of Hereford, on William Fitz-Oſborn. Odo, Biſhop of Bayeux, half brother to William the Conqueror, having determined, without conſulting the king, to go to Rome for the purpoſe of obtaining the Papacy, came to this Iſland in 1082, where he had cauſed ſome ſhips to be prepared for his expedition. But the Biſhop being detained by contrary winds, and the king having been informed of his deſign, came over from Normandy to the Iſle of Wight, and ſeized him with his own hands juſt as he was going to ſet ſail. About two years afterwards the king went into the Iſle of Wight, and croſſed from thence to Normandy. During his ſtay in the Iſland,

he levied very conſiderable ſums of money on the inhabitants, without paying much regard to the juſtice of his claims.

In 1137, Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devonſhire, and Lord of the Iſle of Wight, having revolted againſt king Stephen, was driven from his Caſtle of Exeter, and purſued by the king into the iſland, from whence alſo he was in a ſhort time compelled to fly.

The various events which occurred in England during the active reigns of Henry II. and Richard I. do not appear to have moleſted the iſland.

In 1215, after king John had ſigned the great palladium of the liberties of England, *Magna Charta*, that monarch quickly formed a deſign of annulling the grant; and having ſo recently experienced the extraordinary influence of the Pope over the minds of all men in that age of bigotry, he wiſhed to

engage the aſſiſtance of the See of Rome in the execution of his project. Accordingly he ſent a private letter to the Pope, wherein he intreated abſolution from the oath which he had taken to be faithful to his engagements; and leſt his deſign ſhould become public, and expoſe him again to the reſentment of the Barons and people of England before he was armed with eccleſiaſtical ſupport, he withdrew to the Iſle of Wight, where he waited three months for the Pope's anſwer, and the arrival of ſome foreign troops which he expected. For ſome time after his coming, he kept himſelf concealed from the obſervation of the inhabitants, amuſing himſelf with the converſation of fiſhermen and ſailors, with whom he became familiar in his walks upon the ſea ſhore, attended only by a few domeſtics. After the Pope had annulled the great Charter and abſolved the king from his oath, John haſtily quitted the iſland, and went to Dover to meet the ſoldiers, enliſted for him by his agents in Brabant, Flanders, and other places.

Henry III. granted the wardſhip of Aveline, daughter and heireſs of Iſabella de Fortibus Counteſs of Albemarle and Devonſhire, and Lady of this iſland, to his ſecond ſon Edmund, who ſhortly after married his ward.

King Edward I. was very deſirous of purchaſing the reverſion of the Lordſhip, and accordingly entered into a Treaty for that purpoſe with his brother Edmund, and Aveline his wife, but before the purchaſe could be completed, Aveline died without iſſue in the life-time of her Mother. Edward, however, found means to effect his purpoſe, by perſuading the Counteſs Iſabella to ſell it for 6000 marks. The conveyance was made in the laſt illneſs of the counteſs; the deed was ſealed about three o'Clock in the afternoon, and ſhe died ſoon after midnight. This Deed, from the ſuſpicious circumſtances attending its execution, was made an object of parliamentary examination in the ſubſequent Reign of Edward II. upon the petition

of Hugh de Courtney, Earl of Devonſhire, who claimed the iſland as part of his inheritance from the counteſs Iſabella, to whom he was heir at law.

A ſhort time after this purchaſe, upon the breaking out of hoſtilities with France, the king iſſued a commiſſion appointing Sir Richard De Affeton, the Biſhop of Wincheſter, and Adam de Gorden, Wardens of the iſland, with orders for its defence, in caſe of an attack, which was expected to be made by the French upon the Southern coaſt of England.

Amongſt the many honours and eſtates beſtowed by Edward II. upon his favorite Peirs Gaveſton, when he married him to his neice Margaret, ſiſter to the Earl of Glouceſter, was Carisbrook in the Iſle of Wight, and with this was alſo conferred the wardenſhip of the iſland, of which, however, Gaveſton never obtained poſſeſſion.

In the 12th of Edward III. a writ was iſſued to the Biſhop of Wincheſter, ſtating that the French, who had invaded the country about Portsmouth, and done conſiderable miſchief, meditated ſimilar depredations in the Iſle of Wight. The king, deſirous on this account, that the iſland ſhould be put in a proper ſtate for defence, informs the Biſhop, that he has ordered the wardens of the iſland, to diſtrain the lands and goods of all ſuch perſons as failed to provide, agreeably to the tenure of their eſtates, men at arms, and archers for the defence of the iſland. He alſo permitted the Prior and Monks of Appuldurcombe to remove to Hide Abbey, near Wincheſter.

In conſequence of theſe orders, ſuch preparations were made for the reception of the enemy, that when they landed the following year at St. Helens, and were proceeding into the country, the Iſlanders drove them back to their ſhips, after an action, in

which Sir Theobald Ruſſell, one of the Wardens, was killed. The regulations made at this time for the ſecurity of the inhabitants, are quoted from a manuſcipt in the poſſeſſion of Sir Simeon Stuart Bart. by Sir Richard Worſley, in his Hiſtory of the Iſle of Wight, from which very excellent work may be collected many intereſting particulars, not compatible with the limited nature of a publication, deſigned only as an illuſtration of the views in the iſland.

The Governor, William Montacute, Earl of Saliſbury, and moſt of the chief perſons of the iſland, received orders from Edward III. in the fifty firſt year of his reign, to provide for its defence; and writs were alſo ſent to the Juſtices of the Aſſize, the Sheriff of Hampſhire, and the Governor and Conſtable of Cariſbrook Caſtle, directing them not to compel the inhabitants to attend on juries, in order that they might remain at home for the defence of the place, which

(ſay the writs), the public enemies wiſh to get poſſeſſion of, and are preparing to invade*.

The expected invaſion, however, did not take place, till the firſt year of the ſubſequent reign of Richard II. when the French, who had been repulſed at Wincheſter, landed in the Iſle of Wight, and plundered all the inhabitants. On this occaſion, the Caſtle of Cariſbrook was bravely defended by Sir Hugh Tyrril, who drew the enemy into an ambuſcade, as they were approaching the Caſtle, and killed a conſiderable number. Finding themſelves at length diſappointed in their hopes, the French withdrew from the iſland, after exacting a contribution of One Thouſand marks from the inhabitants, as a conſideration for not deſtroying their houſes.

* Quam etiam inſula iidem hoſtes multam deſiderant, at cum infra breve tempus appropinquare et debellare proponunt ut audivimus et ſe parant. RYMER, Vol. VII. p. 147.

In the fifth year of the reign of Henry IV. the French again landed in the iſland, under the command of Valeran, Earl of St. Pol, who having married the half-ſiſter of Richard II. gave out that his attack was intended to revenge the death of that king. However, the inhabitants, although they received no aſſiſtance from Henry, forced the Earl to reimbark after he had plundered ſome of their villages.

Henry VI. about the year 1444, gave the title of King of the Iſle of Wight to Henry Duke of Warwick, and crowned him with his own hand; but it does not appear, that the Duke obtained, with this diſtinguiſhed honour, any regal power; nor did he even poſſeſs the Lordſhip of the iſland, which was held, at that time, by Humphrey Duke of Glouceſter, under a grant for his life. It has indeed been doubted, whether this unuſual title was really conferred upon the Duke of Warwick, as here related, but the fact may be readily admitted, if we conſider the high

degree of favour in which that nobleman ſtood with King Henry, who was a weak prince, and in beſtowing favours upon ſo great a man, might have forgotten, or choſe not to regard, the impropriety of making a grant of the title of king, when, by the laws of the land, he was not enabled to transfer to another perſon the ſovereignty of any part of his dominions. The fact, indeed, is confirmed, by a painting of the Duke, in an ancient window of the collegiate church at Warwick, where he is repreſented with a crown upon his head and a ſceptre before him.

In the 28th of Henry VI. a petition from the inhabitants was preſented to the King, and another to the Parliament, complaining of the miſerable and defenceleſs ſtate of the iſland which is attributed, by the petitioners, to the miſconduct of one John Newport, who had been ſteward under the Governor, Richard Duke of York. It appears, that this Newport had been diſcharged from his office, and

had afterwards committed great depredations both by ſea and land upon the property of the Inhabitants, though at the ſame time he was making intereſt at court to be reſtored. The prayer of the petition was, that the iſland might be put in a ſtate of defence, and that Newport might not be replaced in the office of Steward. But the King and the Duke of York were too much taken up with thoſe fatal projects which ſhortly after embroiled the houſes of York and Lancaſter, to pay much attention to any repreſentations from a quarter ſo remote from the ſcene of action for which they were preparing. Happy indeed, in thoſe days, were the Inhabitants of the Iſle of Wight, whoſe ſituation ſecured them from participating in thoſe wars of ambition which deluged England in blood!

During the diſpute between Charles VIII. King of France, and the Duke of Bretagne, Sir Edward Woodville, uncle to Henry the Seventh's Queen, and Captain of the Iſle of Wight, deſired the king's permiſſion to raiſe a

troop of volunteers in the iſland, and carry them to the aſſiſtance of the Duke; but as the king had himſelf offered to be mediator between the contending parties, this propoſal was refuſed. Woodville, however, notwithſtanding this refuſal, imagined the king would not be diſpleaſed at his giving aſſiſtance to the Duke. He therefore repaired immediately to the iſland, where he engaged about forty gentlemen, and four hundred commoners, with whom he ſet ſail from St. Helens, and joined the Duke of Bretagne's army before the battle of St. Aubin. In order to intimidate the enemy, and make them believe that this reinforcement from England was greater than it really was, the *Bretons* dreſſed a large body of their ſoldiers in white coats with red croſſes, which was the uniform worn by Woodville's followers. The French however were not diſmayed by this artifice, but defeated the Duke's army in a dreadful battle, in which Woodville and almoſt all his followers were ſlain. This battle was the cauſe of much affliction in the iſland, for

there was ſcarcely a family of any deſcription, who had not to lament the loſs of a relation or friend.

In the fourth of Henry VII. an act of parliament was paſſed to prohibit the inhabitants from holding farms above the annual rent of ten marks. This regulation was adopted with a view to promote the population of the iſland, which had ſuffered conſiderably by Woodville's unfortunate expedition.

Henry VIII. in 1541, ſent an order under his ſign manual, to Richard Worſley Eſq. captain of the iſland, to prevent the deſtruction of game, and ſoon after the King went thither himſelf, and was entertained by that gentleman, at *Appuldurcombe*. Thomas Lord Cromwell, who was a principal inſtrument in bringing about the reformation, was at that time conſtable of Cariſbrook Caſtle, and attended the king in this excurſion, which was probably undertaken for the

purpoſe of enjoying the diverſion of hawking, which his majeſty was extremely fond of.

In 1545, Francis I. king of France, fitted out 150 large ſhips, beſides ſeventy ſmaller ones, and ordered them to ſail towards England. This fleet arrived on the 18th day of July at the Iſle of Wight, under the command of Admiral Annebaut. The Engliſh fleet, which conſiſted only of ſixty ſhips, lay at Portsmouth; but they ſtood towards the enemy, and after a ſlight ſkirmiſh, retired into the channel, in hopes that the French would follow them and get entangled in the ſands and rocks. The French admiral however was too prudent to attack them in that dangerous ſituation, and finding the Engliſh were not diſpoſed to give up the advantage of their poſt he landed his forces in three different parts of the Iſle of Wight, and burnt ſeveral villages. It was even in contemplation of the French, to fortify this iſland and keep poſſeſſion of it, but finding that it would take more time

than they could ſpare, and that the captain of the iſland (the ſame Richard Worſley already mentioned) had taken meaſures to drive them out, they departed very ſoon after their landing. For the future ſecurity of the inhabitants, the captain cauſed ſeveral forts to be erected on the iſland, and one of them was called Worſley's tower after his name. At ſo early a period, this mode of fortifying might be conſidered as a very ſufficient ſecurity againſt the attacks of an enemy, but the modern improvements in the art of war (if any thing can be called improvement which tends to facilitate the deſtruction of mankind) have been ſo conſiderable, that the iſland would now ſtand but an indifferent chance, even from the attack of a large ſhip of war, did it not find a ſtronger protection than its forts, in that beſt ſecurity of Britain, its powerful and irreſiſtible navy.

In the firſt year of Queen Elizabeth, Richard Worſley, Eſq. who had been diſmiſſed

from his office of captain in the preceding reign, was reſtored; and in his inſtructions, he was directed to take ſpecial care for the increaſe of Harquebuſry. In conſequence of this order, the uſe of fire-arms was firſt introduced into the iſland.

In 1588, when England was in ſome degree of alarm at the approach of what the Spaniards called their invincible Armada, this iſland, amongſt the other ſeaports, was put into as good a ſtate of defence as time would permit; but the meaſures taken for its ſecurity by Sir George Carey, (the firſt Captain that aſſumed the name of Governor of the iſland,) gave great offence to ſeveral of the inhabitants, who remonſtrated againſt his conduct to the Lords of the Queen's council. But the danger of the times having rendered ſtrict regulations neceſſary, their petition was but coolly received, and Mr Robert Dyllington, one of the petitioners, being charged by Sir George with diſaffection to the Government, was committed to the Fleet priſon.

Theſe gentlemen indeed were rather haſty in their condemnation of Sir George Carey, who, though he continued in the government many years afterwards, does not appear, in more peaceable times, to have perſiſted in thoſe arbitrary meaſures of which they complained, and which might be juſtified by the extreme hazard to which the iſland was expoſed, at the period when he put them in practice.

It is at leaſt true, that Sir John Oglander, in his MSS. memoirs written ſome time afterwards, ſpeaks handſomely of Sir George Carey's government, and draws a very ſtriking contraſt between the ſtate of the iſland then, and in Sir George's time. The ſingularity of ſome of theſe remarks, may, perhaps, prove a ſufficient excuſe for introducing them in this place, in the author's own words.

" I have heard, "ſays the writer," and partly know it to be true, that not only heretofore

there was no lawyer nor attorney in owre iſland, but in Sir George Carey's time, an attorney coming to ſettle in the iſland, was by his command, with a pound of candles hanging att his breech, lighted, with bells about his legs, hunted owte of the iſland: inſomuch as oure anceſtors lived here ſo quietly and ſecurely, being neither troubled to London nor Wincheſter, ſo they ſeldom or never went owte of the iſland; inſomuch as when they went to London (thinking it an Eaſt India voyage) they always made their wills, ſuppoſing no trouble like to travaile."

Sir John afterwards obſerves—"The Iſle of Wight, ſince my memory, is infinitely decayed; for either it is by reaſon of ſo many attorneys that hath of late made this their habitation, and ſo by ſutes undone the country, (for I have known an attorney bring down after a tearm three hundred writts, I have alſo known twenty niſi prius of our country tried at our aſſizes, when as in the Queen's time we had not ſix writts in a yeare,

nor one niſi prius in ſix years) or elſe wanting the good bargains they were wont to buy from men of war, who alſo vented our commoditys at very high prices; and readie money was eaſy to be had for all things. Now peace and law hath beggered us all, ſo that within my memorie many of the gentlemen and almoſt all the yeomanry are undone."

Sir John's advice, which is ſubjoined, will doubtleſs be thought better than his reaſoning on the decline of the iſland. "Be adviſed by me", ſays he, " have no ſuites at law; if it be poſſible, agree with thine adverſary, though it be with thy loſſe: beſides the neglect of thy time at home, thy abſence from thy wife and children, ſo manie inconveniences hangeth upon a ſuite in lawe, that I adviſe thee, although thou haſt the better of it, let it be reconciled without law; at laſt twelve men or one muſt end it, let two honeſt ones do it at firſte. This country was undone with it, in king James his reign; hazard death and

all quarrels, rather than let thy tongue make his maſter a ſlave."

During the diſpute between King Charles the Firſt and the Parliament, before matters came to an open rupture, the Houſe of Commons, amongſt other reſolutions made in conſequence of the news of a rebellion in Ireland, reſolved, " that the cuſtody of the Iſle of Wight be taken, for the preſent, from the Lord Weſton, ſuſpected of being a Catholic, and ſequeſtered into another hand." In conſequence of this, Lord Weſton, who was alſo Earl of Portland, was removed from the government, notwithſtanding the inhabitants preſented a petition to the houſe in his favour. The king, hereupon, gave the cuſtody of the caſtle of Cariſbrook, to Colonel Brett; and the Counteſs of Portland, together with her five children, and the Earl's brother and ſiſter, withdrew to the caſtle, in hopes of being able to preſerve it for the king.

The ſpirit of popular reſentment, which had riſen in moſt parts of England againſt that ill-fated monarch, ſpread itſelf alſo into this iſland; and the Newport militia, with four hundred men, collected from the ſhips in the port by authority of parliament, marched againſt the caſtle, under the command of Moſes Read, mayor of Newport. Although the caſtle had a very ſlender ſupply of proviſions, and there were not more than twenty men to aſſiſt Brett in its defence, the counteſs reſolved to hold out to the laſt extremity, unleſs honourable terms could be obtained for the garriſon. The caſtle, however, was ſoon after ſurrendered, upon condition that Colonel Brett, and thoſe who had aſſiſted in the defence ſhould be allowed to go wherever they pleaſed within the iſland, and that the counteſs ſhould be permitted to remain in her apartments at the caſtle, till the Parliament ſhould direct the contrary.

It was not long, as might be expected, before ſhe received notice to quit the iſland

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within two days, and after her removal, the parliament took poſſeſſion of the other forts, and the Earl of Pembroke, whom they had appointed governor, entered upon his office. This earl, is the ſame who was returned, and took his ſeat in the Houſe of Commons, as knight of the Shire for the County of Berks, in 1649, after the ſuppreſſion of the Houſe of Lords.

In 1647, the king was ſeized by Cornet Joyce, and delivered up to the army, by whom he was ſoon afterwards ſent to Hampton-Court. Finding the reſtraint he was under at that place extremely diſagreeable, as well as dangerous, he determined, with the aſſiſtance of his friends, Mr. Aſhburnham and Sir John Berkley, to make his eſcape, which he effected in the night, and, accompanied by them, and Legg, arrived ſafe at Titchfield, in Hampſhire, a ſeat of the Earl of Southampton. At this place, they held a conſultation, where the king ſhould go next, and Aſhburnham adviſed, that he ſhould re-

tire to the Iſle of Wight, and truſt himſelf in the hands of Colonel Hammond, who was at that time governor, and whoſe uncle was one of his majeſty's chaplains. It ſhould have been conſidered however, that Hammond had connections of a cloſer nature with the king's enemies. He was married to a daughter of the celebrated John Hampden, and had been appointed governor of the iſland, through the intereſt of Oliver Cromwell.

Aſhburnham and Berkley went firſt to the governor, to endeavour to make terms with him; but all the anſwer they could obtain, was, that he would do the king all the ſervice in his power; but as he was a ſubordinate officer, he could not undertake to diſobey his ſuperiors in what they ſhould pleaſe to command him. Hammond then went, with Aſhburnham and Berkley, to the king, who returned with them to the Iſle of Wight, and on the 12th of November, 1647, was conducted to Cariſbrook caſtle, where Ham-

mond treated him with all poſſible reſpect, but ſent a letter immediately to the ſpeaker of the Houſe of Lords, acquainting him of the king's arrival in the iſland. His majeſty alſo ſent a meſſage to the parliament, making propoſals for an accommodation.

On the 14th of December, the parliament paſſed four bills, to which they were deſirous of obtaining the royal aſſent, before they proceeded in the treaty; and for that purpoſe they named a committee to preſent them to the king. The commiſſioners from Scotland, who had attended the king at Hampton-Court, to treat relative to the affairs of that kingdom, proteſted againſt this proceeding of the parliament, and went to the Iſle of Wight to renew their negociations. They arrived there on the 25th of December, the day after the four bills had been preſented by the committee of the parliament. The Scotch commiſſioners, having brought with them a treaty more agreeable to the inclinations of the king, than the terms propoſed

by the parliament, he acquieſced in it, and told the committee, that he could not think of giving his ſanction to any of the acts preſented to him, till the whole conditions of the peace ſhould be concluded; and for adjuſting theſe, he knew of no way but a perſonal treaty, to take place either at London, or any other place the parliament ſhould chuſe.

Soon after the committee had received this anſwer, all the king's ſervants were diſmiſſed from the caſtle, and no perſon was permitted to ſee him without an expreſs order. An attempt, however, was made by Captain Burley, an inhabitant of the iſland, to reſcue Charles from his captivity; but the plan was ſo ill-concerted, that it was quickly diſcovered, and ſerved only to increaſe the rigour of his confinement. Captain Burley himſelf was condemned and executed. But notwithſtanding the fatal iſſue of this project, two other attempts were made to effect this object, and the particulars are briefly as fol-

lows. Henry Firebrace, a perſon who, by permiſſion of the parliament, came to attend the king, as one of the pages of his bedchamber, found means to deliver to him a packet of letters, written by ſome who were favourable to the royal cauſe. This he effected, by placing them in a ſecret corner of the chamber, and apprizing the king of the circumſtance, by a note conveyed into his majeſty's hand as he went to bed. The king took the diſpatches, and on the next day, put a letter in the ſame place, deſiring Firebrace to continue that mode of correſpondence, which indeed was ſucceſsfully carried on for ſeveral weeks. A conſiderable impediment, however, to the execution of any plan for the king's enlargement, aroſe from Colonel Hammond's having ordered two perſons to watch at the two doors of the king's chamber during the day, whilſt, at night, their beds were placed ſo cloſe to the doors that they could not be opened. But Firebrace, having found means to ingratiate himſelf with theſe guards, was allowed to ſupply the place of one of them, during ſup-

per time, and thus found frequent opportunities of talking with the king. In one of theſe converſations, it was propoſed, that the king ſhould eſcape out of the chamber window, after cutting the bars with a ſaw; but Charles, fearing that the noiſe of the ſaw would be heard, and conceiving that he might effect his eſcape through the window of his apartment, without removing any of the bars, the diſtance of which, from each other, was ſufficient to afford a paſſage for his head, determined on making the experiment, and accordingly directed that every thing ſhould be prepared.

Mr. Edward Worſley, a gentleman of the iſland, Mr. Oſborne, another of the king's attendants, and Mr. Newland, of Newport, were made acquainted with the deſign, and it was agreed, that, upon a ſignal to be given from without, the king ſhould let himſelf down by a cord, provided for that purpoſe, and that Firebrace ſhould conduct him to the main wall of the caſtle, from whence he

was to let himſelf down by another cord, into the ditch, out of which he could eaſily have aſcended. Mr. Worſley, and Mr. Oſborne, were to attend on horſeback at this place, with a horſe, boots, and piſtols for the king, and Mr. Newland was to be ready at the ſea-ſide, with a boat to convey him away.

Firebrace made the ſignal at the appointed time, and the king attempted to get out of the window, but unfortunately, when it was too late to provide a remedy, he found it impoſſible to get his body through the bars, and ſtuck ſo faſt between them, that it was not without great difficulty that he extricated himſelf. Thus the king's deſign was fruſtrated; but his friends had, nevertheleſs, the good fortune to get away without its being known that ſuch a plan had been in agitation. Firebrace, however, was afterwards diſmiſſed from his attendance on the king, upon ſome circumſtances of a ſuſpicious nature, which had been communicated to Colonel Hammond.

Another ſimilar attempt was afterwards made, but with no better ſucceſs. The king had removed one of the bars, either by ſawing it aſunder, or by corroding it with aqua fortis, and was about to get through the window. But diſcovering more perſons in the garden than he expected to ſee, he thought it prudent to deſiſt, and withdrawing himſelf, returned to bed. This plan had, in fact, been diſcovered by Major Rolfe, an officer of the caſtle, who had artfully deceived Oſborne into an opinion, that he would aſſiſt in liberating the king, and had, for that purpoſe, been entruſted with a knowledge of the whole ſcheme. It is ſaid, that Rolfe intended to have ſhot the king as he came through the window, and that Colonel Hammond, had alſo placed ſoldiers to fire on the king's friends in their retreat, but they luckily eſcaped unhurt. After this tranſaction, the king's confinement was rendered much more ſtrict and uncomfortable, none of his friends or ſervants being ſuffered to approach him.

In September, 1648, after a long contention between the army and the parliament, it was agreed, that a treaty ſhould be entered into with the king; and the town of Newport, in the Iſle of Wight, was appointed for the place of conference. The Houſe of Commons ſent inſtructions to Colonel Hammond, that the king ſhould be removed to Newport, and allowed the ſame freedom he poſſeſſed at Hampton Court; but no perſon who had carried arms againſt the parliament, was to be permitted to ſee the king, or to remain in any fort or tower in the iſland. Accordingly his majeſty was conducted to Newport, and granted the indulgences directed by the Houſe of Commons, upon giving his word not to go out of the iſland during the treaty, nor for twenty eight days after, without the approbation of both Houſes of Parliament.

The commiſſioners from both houſes, conſiſting of five lords and ten commoners, being arrived at Newport, the conference began on the 18th of September, at the

houſe of Sir William Hodges. But continual difficulties ariſing in the courſe of the negociation, the parliament ſeveral times found it neceſſary to prolong the period allowed for the concluſion of the treaty; and the army, having, in the mean time, obtained a complete aſcendency over the nation, determined to put it out of the power of the parliament, to make any terms with the king, by ſeizing his perſon a ſecond time. Fairfax, their general, in order to effect this object with greater certainty, directed Colonel Hammond to attend him at head quarters, and, at the ſame time, ſent Colonel Ewers to take the cuſtody of the king.

On the evening of the 29th of November, the king was privately informed that the army intended to ſeize him, and ſent for the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of Lindſay, and Colonel Cooke, to conſult them, reſpecting the meaſures neceſſary to be taken. After Colonel Cooke had communicated all the information he had been able to get, by going to Cariſbrook caſtle, it was evident, the intelli-

gence was well founded, and the king, was, on that account, adviſed to make his eſcape, which, under all circumſtances, was thought a very practicable thing. But Charles rejected this advice, ſaying, " the parliament had promiſed him, and he had promiſed them, and he could not break firſt."

At day-break, the king was informed, that there were ſeveral gentlemen of the army at the gate, who were deſirous of ſpeaking with him. Directions being given for their admiſſion, the officers ruſhed into the king's bedchamber, and informing him they had orders from the army for his removal to Hurſt caſtle, in Hampſhire, ſcarcely gave him time to eat his breakfaſt, before they hurried him thither; nor would they allow the Duke of Richmond to accompany him farther, than about two miles on the road.*

* The occurrences of the night previous to King Charles's removal from the Iſle of Wight, are more fully related in Colonel Cooke's narrative, the original MSS. of which, is preſerved in the Harleian collection, at the Britiſh Muſeum.

After the reſtoration, the inhabitants of the iſland preſented a petition to King Charles the Second, againſt the governor, Lord Culpeper, whom they accuſed of oppreſſion, and of having neglected the fortifications of the iſland. But it was not ſo well received as they expected, for Lord Clarendon, then lord chancellor, replied to their complaints by a letter, in which he blames them, both for the manner and matter of their petition.

In 1671, Charles the Second paid a viſit to the governor, Sir Robert Holmes, a very diſtinguiſhed naval commander, at his houſe at Yarmouth.

From this period, nothing occurs in the hiſtory of the iſland, to which it is neceſſary to draw the reader's attention. We ſhall therefore proceed to give a liſt of the lords, wardens, captains, and governors, in the order of time in which they were ſeverally appointed.

Lords of the Iſle of Wight, from the time of William the Conqueror.

William Fitz Oſborne,

Roger de Breteville, or Briſtolis, Earl of Hereford. From the attainder of this earl, in 1078, the lordſhip continued in the crown, till Henry I. granted it to

Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devonſhire.

1135 Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devonſhire.

1155 Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devonſhire. (2)

1162 Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devonſhire. (2)

Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devonſhire. (3)

1184 William de Vernon, Earl of Devonſhire, and the Iſle of Wight.

1216 Joan, his daughter, who married Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent.

1227 Baldwin, Earl of Devonſhire. (3)

1240 Baldwin, Earl of Devonſhire. (4)

1257 Baldwin, Earl of Devonſhire, (5) and Amicia his wife, who held the lordſhip as part of her dower, after his death.

1283 Iſabella de Fortibus.

1293 The Crown.

1307 Peirs Gaveſton.

1308 Edward, Earl of Cheſter, afterwards Edward III.

The lordſhip afterwards remained in the crown till,

1386 William Montacute, Earl of Saliſbury.

1397 Edward, Earl of Rutland, afterwards Duke of York.

1415 Phillippa, Ducheſs of York.

1447 The Crown.

1449 Richard, Duke of York.

1452 Edmund, Duke of Somerſet.

1453 Henry, Duke of Somerſet.

1464 Anthony de Woodville, Lord Schales, afterwards Earl of Rivers.

1483 The Crown.

1485 Edward de Woodville.

It is uncertain whether this gentleman was lord or captain of the iſland; but no grant of the lordſhip has been made ſince his death.

1488 The Crown.

Succeſſion of Wardens, Captains, or Governors of the Iſland.

The firſt warden was appointed by the crown in 1216, during the minority of Baldwin, third Earl of Devonſhire. This appointment, indeed, has only exiſted during minorities of the lords, or when the lordſhip happened to be in poſſeſſion of the crown, or of a prince of the blood royal.

1216 Walleran de Ties.

1229 Savery de Mauleon, or de Malo Leone.

1293 John Fitz Thomas.

1294 Richard de Affeton, the Biſhop of Wincheſter, and Adam de Gorden.
William Ruſſell.

1302 Sir John Liſle.

1307 Nicholas Liſle.

Sir John Liſle again.
1321 Sir Henry Tyes.
1325 John de la Huſe, and John Liſle.
1325 Nicholas de la Felde.
1336 John de Langford.
1338 Theobald Ruſſell.
1340 Abbot of Quarr.
1341 Sir Bartholomew Liſle, John de Langford, and Sir Theobald Ruſſell.
1343 Bartholomew Liſle, John de Kingſton, and Henry Romyn.
1353 John de Gateſden.
1360 The Abbot of Quarr, Theobald de Gorges, and William Dale.
1377 Sir Hugh Tyrril.
1447 Henry Trenchard.
John Newport.
Henry Bruin.
1461 Sir Geoffery Gate.
1483 Sir William Berkley.
1483 Sir John Savile.
1485 Sir Edwarde Woodville.
1495 Sir Reginald Bray.
Sir Nicholas Wadham.

1511 Sir James Worſley.
1538 Richard Worſley, eſq.
1553 Mr. Giſling.
1558 Richard Worſley, eſq. again.
1565 Sir Edward Horſey.
1582 Sir George Carey, afterwards Lord Hunſdon.
1603 Henry, Earl of Southampton.
1625 John, Lord Conway.
1631 Richard, Lord Warton.
1634 Jerom, Earl of Portland.
1642 Philip, Earl of Pembroke.
1647 Colonel Robert Hammond.
1649 Colonel William Sydenham.
1660 Thomas, Lord Culpeper.
1667 Admiral Sir Robert Holmes.
1693 John, Lord Cutts.
1707 Charles, Marquis of Wincheſter, afterwards Duke of Bolton.
1710 General John Richmond Webb.
1715 William, Lord (afterwards Earl) Cadogan.
1726 Charles, Duke of Bolton.
1733 John, Duke of Montague.

1734 John, Viſcount Lymington, afterwards Earl of Portſmouth.
1742 Charles, Duke of Bolton, again.
1745 John, Earl of Portſmouth, again.
1763 Thomas, Lord Holmes.
1764 Hans Stanley, eſq.
1766 Harry, Duke of Bolton.
1770 Right Honorable Hans Stanley, again.
1780 Right Honorable Sir Richard Worſley, Bart.

Having furniſhed a detail of as much of the hiſtory of the iſland as is conſiſtent with the nature of this publication, it becomes neceſſary, to revert to the village of Weſt Cowes, of which ſome deſcription has already been given.

It remains only to be ſaid, that Weſt Cowes is a Hamlet in the Pariſh of Northwood. It has a chapel which was erected in the year 1657, probably about the period when Weſt Cowes aſſumed the appearance

of a village; as, before that time, it only conſiſted of a few fiſhermen's houſes ſcattered on the ſhore. At this place, I embraced the opportunity of joining a party, who had engaged a veſſel for the purpoſe of making a voyage round the iſland.

The morning being fine, and the ſeaſon the beſt in the year for an aquatic excurſion, the ſurrounding country afforded that rich variety of tints which the approach of autumn uſually ſcatters over the face of nature, and which contributes equally to delight the traveller, and inform the artiſt.

At ſix in the morning we weighed anchor, and left Cowes Harbour, with a gentle breeze from the weſt. We ſtood out for the oppoſite coaſt of Hampſhire, where the lofty tower of Eaglehurſt, backed by the luxuriant foliage of the new foreſt, formed a ſtriking and noble object. We now tacked and ſtood in again for the Iſland, making the point of

land on which ſtands Mr. Collins's houſe, called Egypt, of which mention has already been made.

In Gurnet bay, we caught a pictureſque inland view of the country, cloſed with the high downs of Alvington, Bucombe, Mountjoy, and the caſtle of Cariſbrook. Here are ſeveral ſtone quarries, which at preſent furniſh materials for the various improvements going forwards at Portsmouth. The rocks appear grand, and are well contraſted with underwood. On reaching Gurnet point we plainly ſaw, running to a conſiderable length, the gravelly ridge, ſuppoſed to be the iſthmus which once joined the Iſle of Wight to Hampſhire.

We then put about for the Hampſhire ſhore, and paſſed the mouth of the river Bewley, from which we ſtood acroſs to Thorneſs Bay. The barrenneſs of the ſhore here, is much relieved by the farm at Whippence, and by woods ſtretching towards this bay.

Another tack from the Hampſhire coaſt, brought us to New-town bay, into which runs the New-town river, by ſome called Shalfleet lake. The ſhore here lies very flat, without exhibiting any very ſtriking feature; but Afton downs, which riſe behind the village of Shalfleet, form an agreeable back ground.

We found the ſhore from hence quite barren till we reached Yarmouth, which is ſituated on the water's edge. From the ſea, a battery, erected by Captain Urry at the bottom of his garden, ſtrikes the eye very agreeably; and indeed might, at firſt ſight, be miſtaken for Yarmouth Caſtle, as it is by much the moſt conſpicuous. At the mouth of the river Yar, ſtands the caſtle, and the oppoſite ſhore is enlivened by the Hamlet of Norton, where the cottage of Mr. Binſtead, ſurrounded with fir and other trees, ſtands unrivalled. The view from it is extremely intereſting, as it commands Yarmouth roads, the uſual reſort of outward bound ſhips, together with the

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NORTON LODGE the Seat of Mr BINSTEAD

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HURST CASTLE

whole extent of the coaſt of Hampſhire and the ſhore of the Iſland, with Portſmouth and Spithead to cloſe the ſcene.

Paſſing the ſcite of Carey's Sconce, and Worſley's Tower, which are on Norton Common, we ſtood over to Hurſt Caſtle. It is built on a neck of land, which runs out for a conſiderable diſtance, and forms that part of the Hampſhire Coaſt which is neareſt to the iſland, the channel being only three quarters of a mile acroſs. At this place the wind freſhened, and the agitation of our veſſel convinced us, that we were croſſing what the ſeamen call Fidler's Race. This unuſual motion, which is always felt with a freſh breeze, is ſuppoſed to ariſe from the tide being confined in the narrow paſs.

On our approach to Cliff's-end, we made the land, and ſtood cloſe into Colwell Bay. The ſhore here is bold, but ſo barren as to afford little pleaſure until we left Warden Ledge and Totland Bay; but, on ſtanding

round Headen Point, we entered Allum Bay, and were highly gratified with the ſudden change, from a tame heath to ſtately promontories of various colours, with which that part of the ſhore abounds. At the extremity of the adjoining high lands, are ſeen the inſulated rocks called the Needles. Three of them, of conſiderable ſize, are ſtill remaining, but that which originally procured them their name, was a tapering pillar of above a hundred feet high, thrown down by the fury of the waves, in the year 1764. Its fall was attended with ſo tremendous a ſhock, that it is ſaid to have been felt at Southampton. The baſe of this rock we could not poſſibly diſcover, though the ſea is particularly tranſparent at this part, and we employed a conſiderable time in looking for it.

We ſtood round the Needles, and lay to in Scratchel's Bay, which is the weſtern end of the iſland. Here part of our company landed on the rocks, to take the diverſion of ſhooting at their feathered inhabitants, which,

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ALLUM BAY and the NEEDLES.

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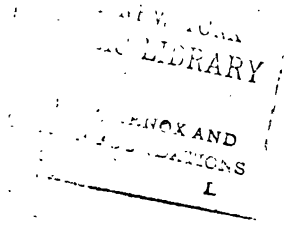
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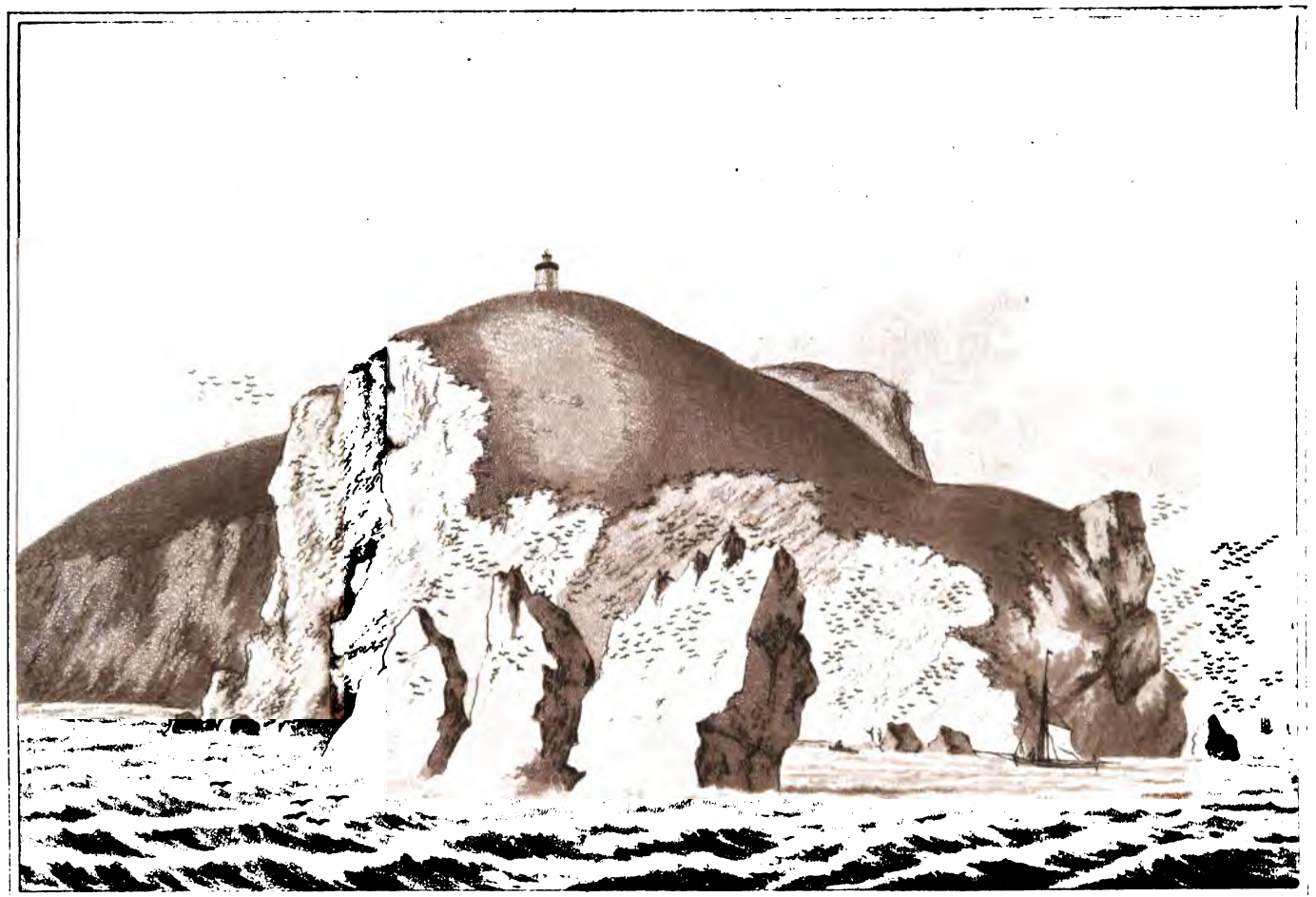

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WEST END OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

in the months of May, June, and July, it is ſaid, are incredibly numerous. Whilſt my fellow travellers were thus engaged, I rowed out to catch a ſight of the Lighthouſe, which is erected on the ſummit of the ſhore, for the ſecurity of veſſels paſſing between the Needles and ſome ſmaller rocks, lying more to the northward, called the Shingles, and which are ſuppoſed to have formerly joined. This paſſage the ſailors call ſhooting the Needles. When I had got out to a ſufficient diſtance I made a ſketch of the *Weſt end of the Iſland.*

Scratchel's Bay is ſmall, and when viewed from the beach, the rocks above have a terrific appearance, as they overhang a conſiderable way, and their white colour adds much to their apparent height. At the north part of this bay, there is formed in the rock, a natural arch, which at low water may be paſſed on foot. Here we made a hearty meal, and enlivened the dreary ſcene with mirth and a bottle. We could not help obſerving, that this is a ſpot by no means favourable to

the talents of our London ſportſmen, who were much deceived as to diſtance on the water. The birds, indeed, ſeemed aware of this error, and remained quietly on the rocks after being repeatedly fired at.

At length we embarked, and left this bay with a fair wind, keeping the ſhore, under Mainbench, which is a rock immenſely high, ſaid to be upwards of ſix hundred feet perpendicular at high-water-mark. It is chiefly compoſed of light grey and white ſtone, in ſome parts broken with yellow. In the lower rocks we ſaw ſeveral ſmall caverns, but none of any conſequence till we reached Freſhwater-Gate. Our veſſel again lay to, and we took to the boat, intending to view the cave of Freſhwater from its mouth; but this we found impoſſible, owing to the tide's running in ſo ſtrong; and indeed, when a weſterly wind prevails, it is highly neceſſary to caution thoſe travellers who do not engage the man who reſides at Freſhwater-Gate for a guide, to be very careful

how they approach the mouth of this Cave whilſt the tide is running in; for it requires a ſkilful management of the boat to prevent miſchief, from the numerous rocks which are juſt under the ſurface of the water. As we found the tide much too high to attempt entering it from the ſhore, we returned to our veſſel.

From Freſhwater Gate, we kept as cloſe under the ſhore as the rocks would permit, and paſſed the pariſhes of Brook, Motteſton, and Brixton. Their ſhores do not poſſeſs any very ſtriking features. On the contrary, a continued ſameneſs of dark loam, and yellow earths, tinged with green, in conſequence of the quantity of copperas with which they are impregnated, rather offends than delights the eye. Copperas ſtones, which are waſhed on this ſhore every tide, and collected in great quantities by the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, are ſhipped for London, for the purpoſe of extracting the copperas.

We now ſtood into the Channel, to avoid the lurking rocks which abound in Chale Bay. The dangers which theſe occaſion to the unſuſpecting mariner, though a ſubject not the moſt pleaſing to contemplate, are nevertheleſs ſo beautifully and aptly delineated in the following lines, by an inimitable authoreſs, that I cannot forbear introducing them here.

" Oft in this Bay—the dark o'erwhelming deep
Mocks the poor pilot's ſkill, and braves his ſighs;
O'er the high deck the frothy billows ſweep,
And the fierce tempeſt drowns the ſea boy's cries."

" The madd'ning ocean ſwells with furious roar:
See the devoted bark, the ſhatter'd maſt,
The ſplitting hulk, daſh'd on the rocky ſhore,
Rolls 'midſt the howlings of the direful blaſt."

" O'er the vex'd deep the vivid ſulphur flies,
The jarring elements their clamours blend,
The deaf'ning thunder roars along the ſkies,
And whiſtling winds from lurid clouds deſcend."

" The lab'ring wreck, contending with the wave,
Mounts to the blaſt, or plunges in the main;
The trembling wretch, ſuſpended o'er his grave,
Clings to the tatter'd ſhrouds, the pouring rain

Chills his ſad breaſt, methinks I ſee him weep,
I hear his fearful groan, his mutter'd pray'r,
O, ceaſe to mourn, behold the yawning deep
Where ſoon thy weary ſoul ſhall mock Deſpair,
Yes, ſoon thy aching heart ſhall reſt in peace,
For in the arms of Death all human ſorrows ceaſe."

Here our ſailors told us of an inhuman ſtratagem, ſaid to have been practiſed on this coaſt for a number of years; but it has too much the air of fiction and improbability to be ſeriouſly credited. On every ſtormy night, the inhabitants of the coaſt of Chale are ſaid to have allured the unwary mariner to his deſtruction, by fixing a lanthorn to the head of an old horſe, one of whoſe fore legs had been previouſly tied up. The limping gait of the animal, gave the lanthorn a kind of motion exactly ſimilar to that of a ſhip's lanthorn, and led the deceived pilot on theſe fatal rocks, a prey to mercileſs plunderers, who, it is ſaid, would not even ſcruple to diſpatch any unfortunate individual that ſurvived the wreck, in order to ſecure their booty more compleatly.

On the high down of St. Catherine's, ſtands an ancient ſea mark, which is perceived at a conſiderable diſtance out at ſea. The cliffs under theſe downs, as you view them *en paſſant*, have the appearance of an immenſe fortification; and on the ſhore is a cavity, which, though viewed at a diſtance, ſtrikes the mind with horror at its dark and ſable aſpect. This is called *Black gang Chine*, but from whence it derived that name, our ſeamen were unable to inform us.

We now ſtood out to ſea, to avoid the ſhoals of Rocken end, and in ſo doing, part of our company began to feel the unpleaſant ſenſations of the deep water at the Race. The ſea, indeed, rolled tremendouſly, and whilſt our minds were impreſſed with an idea of its immenſity, we could have exclaimed with an admired writer—

" Hail! thou inexhauſtible ſource of wonder and contemplation! Hail! thou multitudinous ocean! whoſe waves chaſe

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one another down like the generations of men, and, after a momentary ſpace, are immerged for ever in oblivion! Thy fluctuating waters waſh the varied ſhores of the world, and while they disjoin nations, whom a nearer connection would involve in eternal war, they circulate their arts and their labours, and give health and plenty to mankind."

" How glorious! how awful are the ſcenes thou diſplayeſt! Whether we view thee when every wind is huſhed, when the morning ſun ſilvers the level line of the horizon, or when its evening track is marked with flaming gold, and thy unrippled boſom reflects the radiance of the over arching Heavens! Or whether we behold thee in thy terrors! when the black tempeſt ſweeps thy ſwelling billows, and the boiling ſurge mixes with the clouds;—when death rides the ſtorm,—and humanity drops a fruitleſs tear for the toiling mariner, whoſe heart is ſinking with diſmay!"—

" And yet, mighty deep! 'tis thy *ſurface* alone we view.—Who can penetrate the ſecrets of thy wide domain?—What eye can viſit thy immenſe rocks and caverns, that teem with life and vegetation?—or ſearch out the myriads of objects, whoſe beauties lie ſcattered over thy dread abyſs?"

"The mind ſtaggers with the immenſity of her own conceptions,—and when ſhe contemplates the flux and reflux of thy tides, which from the beginning of the world were never known to err, how does ſhe ſhrink at the idea of that Divine Power, which originally laid thy foundations ſo ſure, and whoſe omnipotent voice hath fixed the limits where thy proud waves ſhall be ſtayed?"

Our attention was ſoon afterwards taken up, with viewing a convoy of upwards of two hundred ſail of merchant ſhips, working up the Britiſh Channel; and the day being exceedingly fine, this ſight was highly gratifying indeed. We now directed our veſſel towards

the iſland, and had a full view of the whole extent of what is termed the undercliff. This famouſly variegated and romantic part of the iſland is nearly five miles in length; and the information I received of its numerous and well contraſted beauties, was ſuch, that I felt extremely anxious to land, in order to examine them. Wiſhing however to complete our voyage on a day ſo propitious to the undertaking, we ſcudded under the ſhore, which is compoſed of clays of various hues, broke with numbers of ſhrubs, and water falls interperſed with rock of ſeveral colours. The church of St Lawrence is ſeen from the ſea, though a ſmall and inconſiderable object. We next reached Steephill, where the Hon. Mr. Tolmarche occupies the houſe built by Hans Stanley, Eſq. when governor of the iſland. The whole of this ſcenery is backed by the cliff, which forms *Underwarth*, as it is called by the inhabitants, and the high downs of Niton, Week, Rue Ventnor, and St. Boniface. On paſſing Ventnor, the Village of Bonchurch came full in view, the houſes of which are moſtly whitewaſhed; a common cuſtom in

the country, and which not only takes from the beautiful tints of nature, but diſguſts the eye even when ſeen at a diſtance. On this ſubject, the opinion of that ingenious writer Mr. Gilpin, is ſo perfectly conformable to my own ſentiments, that I cannot help introducing here, the remarks he has made concerning the impropriety of introducing white into landſcapes.

" Nature, ſays he, never colours in this offenſive way. Her ſurfaces are never white. The chalky cliff is the only permanent object of the kind, which ſhe allows to be her's; and this ſeems rather a force upon her, from the boiſterous action of a furious element. But even here it is her conſtant endeavour to correct the offenſive tint. She hangs her chalky cliff with ſamphire, and other marine plants; or ſhe ſtains it with various hues, ſo as to remove, in part at leaſt, the diſguſting glare. The weſtern end of the Iſle of Wight, called the Needle-cliffs, is a remarkable inſtance of this. Theſe rocks are of a ſubſtance nearly reſembling chalk;

but nature has ſo reduced their unpleaſant luſtre by a variety of chaſtiſing tints, that in moſt lights they have even a beautiful effect. She is continually at work alſo, in the ſame manner, on the white cliffs of Dover; though her endeavours here are more counteracted by a greater expoſure. But here, and in all other places, were it not for the intervention of foreign cauſes, ſhe would, in time, throw her green mantle over every naked and expoſed part of her ſurface.

" In theſe remarks I mean only to inſinuate, that *white* is a hue, which nature ſeems ſtudious to expunge from all her works, except in the touch of a flower, an animal, a cloud, a wave, or ſome other diminutive or tranſient object; and that *her mode* of colouring ſhould always be the model of *ours*."

" In animadverting, however, on *white objects*, I would only cenſure the mere *raw tint*. It may eaſily be corrected, and turned

into ſtone-colours of various hues; which though light, if not too light, may often have a good effect.

" Mr. Lock, who did me the favour to overlook theſe papers, made ſome remarks on this part of my ſubject, which are ſo new, and ſo excellent, that I cannot without impropriety, take the credit of them myſelf."

" White offers a more extended ſcale of light, and ſhadow, than any other colour, when near; and is more ſuſceptible of the predominant tint of the air, when diſtant. The tranſparency of its ſhadows, (which in near objects partake ſo little of darkneſs, that they are rather ſecond lights) diſcover, without injuring the principal light, all the details of ſurfaces.

" I partake, however, of your general diſlike to the colour; and though I have ſeen a very *ſplendid effect* from an *accidental light* on a white object, yet I think it a hue,

which hurts, oftener than it improves the ſcene. It particularly diſturbs the air in its office of graduating diſtances, ſhews objects nearer than they really are, and by preſſing them on the eye, often gives them an importance, which, from their form and ſituation, they are not entitled to."

Leaving Bonchurch, we doubled Dunnoſe, a craggy promontory, compoſed of dark earth, and rocks of a deep ſlate colour, tinged with green. It is ſuppoſed, that a ſtratum of coal runs from this point to Bimbridge. In the rocks of Dunnoſe, there are ſeveral caverns, which the ſmugglers, a few years ago, made the depoſitaries of their contraband merchandize.

On paſſing this headland, we ſcudded cloſe under the ſhore of Luecombe chine, and reached Shanklin. Here the ſcene from the water is much enlivened, by the ſhady groves with which the village of Shanklin abounds. Theſe, indeed, form a very agreeable

contraſt, which we did not fail to remark for ſome hours before we reached them. We lay to, oppoſite Shanklin chine, in order to view this rural and extraordinary chaſm, which is much reſorted to by thoſe who make the tour of the Iſle of Wight. It was a matter of regret to our whole party, that time would not permit us to land. For my own part, I ſhall not, in this place, attempt to give the reader a deſcription of this charming ſpot, as I ſhall have occaſion to mention it in the account of my progreſs through the iſland, when I had a much better opportunity of contemplating its beauties.

As we paſſed on, the ſweep of Sandown Bay, with Culver cliffs and Bimbridge point, formed a new, and very pleaſing ſcene, improved by a very advantageous view of Mr. Wilkes's cottage, in which that celebrated gentleman has ſhewn the excellence of his taſte in a variety of reſpects, and particularly in ſelecting a ſpot, ſo peculiarly adapted by nature as this is, for a ſummer reſidence.

For the protection of Sandown-Bay, Henry VIII. built a fort, which has been kept in good repair ever ſince.

Sailing from hence, we came immediately under Culver-Cliff. In theſe rocks, which are compoſed of chalk, a great number of gulls and common rock pigeons are bred; and the Cliff is ſuppoſed to have derived its name from this circumſtance. About half-way up, is a place called Hermit's-Hole, which appears, at the diſtance from which we ſaw it, to be a ſmall cavity, only capable of being approached by a narrow and dangerous path, that deſcends from the ſummit of the rock, which, itſelf, is almoſt perpendicular. Previous to, and during the reign of, Queen Elizabeth, there was, near this ſpot, a famous breed of hawks, to protect which, the Governor had ſpecial charge from the Queen, with directions to puniſh any one who ſhould preſume to plunder their neſts.

We now ſtood round Bimbridge-Ledge, and ſaw a richly cultivated country riſing above the Cliffs. A ſerene evening, and a declining ſun which gives an agreeable tinge to even the moſt indifferent objects, here added beauty to a ſituation at all times truly pictureſque, and invited us to take advantage of the tide, and row up the Haven of Brading in a boat. Each ſide of this Haven is in a ſtate of high cultivation, and richly adorned with wood. The village of Brading, with its ancient church, forms a beautiful feature in the proſpect, which is backed by the high downs of Aſhey, on which is the ſea-mark directed by George II. A.D. 1735. This object is of great conſequence to the ſhips that paſs and repaſs from Portſmouth.

As we rowed back to our veſſel, we could not but admire the ſituation of the village of St. Helen's, which is on a riſing ground, on the north-ſide of the mouth of the Haven. On the ſhore, ſtand the remains of the old

church of St. Helen's, which has been dilapidated by various encroachments of the ſea. Part of the ſteeple is faced with brick, whitened, and ſerves for a ſea-mark for the road of St. Helen's, which is juſt off this point, and is the uſual ſtation of our fleets when they leave Portſmouth or Spithead.

At a ſhort diſtance from this ſea-mark, commences a beautiful grove, belonging to the Priory, a ſeat of Sir Naſh Groſe. Sailing in view of theſe woods, we entered Spithead, in order to have an opportunity of obſerving the Britiſh fleet, which lay at anchor there. So grand a ſight as this fleet, which conſiſted of upwards of fifty large ſhips, with a numerous aſſemblage of ſmaller veſſels, could not fail to excite a degree of exultation, in the minds of Engliſhmen, at the aſtoniſhing naval ſtrength of our country. Nor, perhaps, were we to be thought inexcuſable, in ſo far giving way to a national prejudice, as to imagine, that we diſcovered a very viſible ſuperiority in the conſtruc-

tion and convenience, as well as the appearance and decorations of our ſhips of war, over thoſe of the Portugueſe Governor, which lay at Spithead at the ſame time.

We left this buſy ſcene, and ſtood over to the Mother-Bank, which is a ridge of gravel, lying about a mile to the north of the Iſle of Wight, and is the place where outward bound ſhips uſually aſſemble to wait for convoy, and where alſo the ſhips from the Straits perform quarantine. This ſtation is well adapted for the above purpoſes, as there is good anchorage, and various depths of water.

We now paſſed St. John's, a delightful villa, conſiſting of a ſmall but elegant manſion, built by the late General Amherſt. Immediately under it, is a ſeat of Mrs. Roberts, called Appley, which poſſeſſes the ſame advantages in point of ſituation, as St. John's. A little farther on, is Nettleſtone, the ſeat of Henry Oglander Eſq.; but of

this place, it is my intention to give a full deſcription in my tour through the iſland.

The next village on the ſhore, is Ride, the uſual place of embarkation from the iſland to Portſmouth, where packets and open boats are continually paſſing. The wind changing in our favour, we had an opportunity of directing our courſe under the ſhore of the Iſle of Wight, where we paſſed Binſtead, and the woods of Quarr-Abbey, to Fiſhborn-Creek, which runs through Wootton-Bridge, for ſome diſtance, into the woods.

The ſhore now continues wooded to King's-Key, ſo called, as I was informed, from King John's having paſſed ſome months at this retired ſpot. On leaving this place, the view is extended along the woods of Barton-Point, to Old Caſtle-Point, which we paſſed, and entered Cowes harbour, much entertained with our voyage.

I landed again at Cowes, of which place the reader has already been furniſhed with a deſcription, and commencing my journey towards Newport, I aſcended the hill, from whence the road is encloſed with hedge rows, which ſeparate it from well cultivated lands on each ſide, from Cowes to the foreſt of Parkhurſt. About two miles from Cowes, I turned out of the road, to the left hand, in order to take the view of *Northwood church*, which has a place in this work.

The pariſh of Northwood, is ſituated on the weſt ſide of the river Medina, oppoſite to Calſhot-Caſtle. It is bounded by the ſea on the north and north-weſt, by the pariſh of Calbourn on the weſt, and by part of the pariſh of Shalfleet, and the foreſt of Parkhurſt on the ſouth. The church of Northwood, was a chapel of eaſe to Cariſbrook, until the reign of Henry VIII. when parochial privileges were granted to it, with an exemption from

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NORTHWOOD CHURCH

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contributing to the repairs of the mother church. But the great and ſmall tythes ſtill belong to the Vicar of Cariſbrook, who is alſo Rector of Northwood. It is probable, that theſe tythes were of little value when they were originally aſſigned to the Priory of Cariſbrook, as the pariſh was at that time moſtly over-grown with wood, and from this circumſtance, it appears to have derived its name. The church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptiſt, is built of ſtone, and plaiſtered in ſome parts. It conſiſts of a body, compaſs-roofed, and covered with tiles and ſtone. On the north and ſouth ſides, there are ailes, which are ſeparated from the body, by four Gothic arches. None of the monuments in Northwood church are very ancient, or in any degree remarkable, except one, which has been erected to the memory of the Reverend Thomas Smith, who was miniſter of this pariſh, in the year 1681. It is formed of one entire piece of chalk, three feet long, and four feet high, curiouſly carved with

a variety of hieroglyphic characters, which are in high preſervation.

The chapel at Weſt-Cowes, which has been already mentioned, is a chapel of eaſe to Northwood, and is larger than the Pariſh-church. It was conſecrated in the year 1662, five years after its erection, by George, Biſhop of Wincheſter; and was endowed, in the year 1671, with 5*l.* per annum for ever, by Mr. Richard Stephens. In the year 1679, Biſhop Morley endowed it with the further annual ſum of 20*l.* upon condition, that the inhabitants ſhould allow the miniſter, (who is choſen by themſelves,) the ſum of 40*l.* per annum; but if the inhabitants neglect to make this payment, the Biſhop's endowment is to be forfeited for ever. The rectory of Northwood, is united with the vicarage of Cariſbrook, and both are in the gift of Queen's-College, Oxford. The annual amount of the poor's rate collected in this pariſh, is about 360*l.*

Before the Reformation, there was, in this pariſh, a religious houſe of " fratres et ſorores fraternitatis ſancti Johannis Baptiſtæ, in eccleſia de Northwode," brothers and ſiſters of the fraternity of St. John the Baptiſt, in the church of Northwood. This monaſtery was ſituated near the church, but it had not ſubſiſted long, before it was ſuppreſſed, with the other eſtabliſhments of that ſort, by Henry VIII. The building, which is ſaid to have been ſtanding about a century ago, was called the *Church-houſe*, but no remains of it can be traced at preſent.

Near Northwood Church, is the neat and hoſpitable cottage of Captain Price, which commands an intereſting view of the river Medina; and not far diſtant, is Medham, the ſeat of Mr. Green, which poſſeſſes the ſame advantages in point of ſituation.

Returning from Northwood, I purſued the Newport road for a mile and a half, till I came to the gate of Parkhurſt foreſt. The

view before me was extenſive; commanding, towards the left, the river Medina, with its cultivated ſhore; in the front appeared St. George's down, backed by St. Catherine's down; and, on the right, Cariſbrook Caſtle, with Mountjoy, and the high downs ſurrounding it.

The foreſt of Cariſbrook, or Parkhurſt, is extra-parochial, and contains about three thouſand acres of land. In the reign of William the Conqueror, and for a long time afterwards, it was called the King's Park, and is ſo deſcribed in domeſday book. By a grant made in the twentieth of Henry VI. to Henry Trenchard, of the office of conſtable of Cariſbrook, it is denominated the King's Foreſt; and in an account of rents, iſſues, and diſburſements of the iſland, in the twenty-third of Henry VII. there is a charge for ſalaries paid to the ranger of the foreſt, and two under keepers. Swain-motes were yearly held in this foreſt, as appears by a warrant from the duke of Suffolk, juſtice of the king's foreſts,

parks, and chaces, in the thirty-ſixth of Henry VIII. directed to the warden, lieutenant, and quarter keepers of the foreſt of Cariſbrook.

About a mile within the foreſt, ſtands the houſe of induſtry for this iſland, a ſtructure, which, for convenience and good regulation, is equally deſerving of praiſe and imitation. The poor who receive the advantages of this uſeful inſtitution, are much indebted to the humanity and good ſenſe of the gentlemen of the iſland, who, at a general meeting in the year 1770, propoſed an application to parliament, for conſolidating the poor rates of the ſeveral pariſhes, and erecting a houſe or houſes of induſtry, for the maintenance and employment of the indigent. In conſequence of the unanimous opinion of this meeting, and the meaſures afterwards purſued, an act of parliament was obtained in the eleventh year of his preſent Majeſty's reign, the preamble of which ſets forth the uſeful purpoſes it was intended to effect. It ſtates " that the providing a place for the general recep-

tion of the poor, would tend to the more effectual relief of ſuch as by age, infirmities, or diſeaſes, were rendered incapable of ſupporting themſelves by their labour; to the better employment of the able and induſtrious; to the correction and puniſhment of the profligate and idle; and to the education of the children in religion and induſtry; and thereby making the poor, inſtead of being totally ſupported by the public, contribute to the ſupport, aſſiſtance, and relief of each other; and be of ſome advantage to the community, to which they had before been only a heavy and grievous burthen." By this act of parliament, His Majeſty was enabled to grant, under the exchequer ſeal, ſuch part of the foreſt of Parkhurſt, near the town of Newport, not exceeding eighty acres, as certain truſtees therein named, ſhould allot for the purpoſes of the act, for ſuch term as his Majeſty ſhould think proper. The truſtees having fixed upon a ſpot which they thought the moſt convenient for the intended building, obtained a grant of eighty acres to be made to the corporation

erected by the act, for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, at the yearly rent of £.8 17 9½. Agreeably to this plan the houſe of induſtry is erected; the principal part of the building extending from eaſt to weſt three hundred feet, and twenty feet wide, with windows on both ſides, for the benefit of a thorough air. A wing twenty-four feet wide is formed from the main building, at the diſtance of two hundred feet from the weſt end, and extends in length, towards the ſouth, one hundred and ſeventy feet. A range of workſhops alſo, for manufacturers and mechanics, runs from the end of this wing in a line parallel with the main building. On the eaſt ſide of the wing is a court, one hundred and ſeventy feet by fifty, having a dairy, waſhhouſe, brewhouſe, and other offices on the eaſt ſide, and a wall on the ſouth.

The principal building conſiſts of a ſtore room, ſteward's room, committee room, a dining hall one hundred and eighteen feet

long, and twenty-ſeven feet wide, a common ſitting room for the aged and impotent poor, rooms for the laundry, governor, and matron, nurſeries and ſick wards, with excellent cellars under the eaſt end. On the ground floor of the wing, are the governor's and matron's ſitting rooms, the ſchool rooms, apothecary's ſhop, kitchen, ſcullery, &c. Above, are the lying-in rooms, ſick wards, twenty ſeparate apartments for married men and their wives, and two common ſitting rooms for the old and infirm. In front of the principal building is a large gateway, on the eaſt ſide of which is a maſter weaver's room and ſpinning room, with ſtore rooms over them; and on the weſt ſide, are the ſhoemaker's and taylor's ſhops, and a large ſpinning room, with weaving rooms, and ſtore rooms in the upper ſtory. The manufactures now carried on are, ſacks for corn, flour, and biſcuit; ſtockings kerſeys, and other articles of apparel for the uſe of the poor. On the north ſide of the principal building is a chapel, fifty feet long by twenty ſeven wide, where di-

vine ſervice is performed twice a week, beſides Sundays. There is alſo a peſt houſe, and a burial ground walled in. A large garden, which ſupplies the houſe with vegetables, occupies the ground on the ſouth ſide of the building; and on the eaſt, behind the offices, is a barn, a ſtable, hog-ſties, &c. The houſe is capable of containing near ſeven hundred perſons, and the number uſually ſupported in it, are from five hundred to five hundred and fifty, varying according to the ſeaſon, and the general healthineſs of the country.

The great expence of this building, which exceeded the ſum allowed by the act of parliament, made it neceſſary, in 1776, to procure a ſecond act, by which the corporation was enabled to borrow a farther ſum of money. Many defects in the former law were alſo remedied, and the corporation of guardians were continued, with new and enlarged powers. By this act the corporation are ſtyled, "The guardians of the poor within the Iſle of Wight," and all perſons are declared

to be guardians, who poſſeſs, in their own right or in right of their wives, lands within the iſland rated to the poor rate at the yearly value of 50*l.* or are heirs apparent of ſuch lands of the yearly value of 100*l.* or rectors and vicars within the iſland, or who are occupiers of lands rated at the yearly value of 100*l.* Out of theſe, twenty-four directors and thirty-ſix acting guardians are annually appointed for the management of the concerns of the corporation, and in them is veſted the appointment of proper officers for the internal government of the houſe. That part of the land which is not occupied by the building and garden, has been cultivated at a very conſiderable expence, and is divided into fields of from five to twelve acres, moſtly fenced with quick hedges, and in ſuch a ſtate of improvement as promiſes to repay very amply, the labour and coſt beſtowed on them.

I have been induced to give a more circumſtantial account of this excellent inſtitu-

tion than is perhaps conſiſtent with an undertaking like the preſent, merely from a conviction, of the great benefits which the public would derive, from ſimilar eſtabliſhments in different parts of the kingdom.

Not far from the houſe of induſtry, is St. Croſs, the ſeat of Mr. Kirkpatrick. Upon this ſpot formerly ſtood a priory or hoſpital, dedicated to the Holy Croſs. It is mentioned in the Lincoln Taxation 20th Edward I. and again, amongſt the alien priories, in the twenty-fifth of the ſame reign. This priory was a cell to the abbey of Tirone, in France; but by whom it was founded is not known. It appears to have been called an hoſpital in the 6th of Richard II. that monarch having granted " to John de Coweſhall, the cuſtody of the *hoſpital* of the Holy Croſs, in the Iſle of Wight, for life."

An acknowledgement was paid to the priory of Cariſbrook, from this houſe, for the liberty of burying their own dead, for which the

biſhop had granted a licence. This being an alien priory, was given to the college of Winchester, ſome time before the general diſſolution of the religious houſes. Some ſmall remains of the ancient building, are ſtill viſible in the walls of Mr. Kirkpatrick's houſe, and the farm-houſe adjoining.

From St. Croſs, I took the view of the "*Entrance into Newport*", which appears in this work.

The town of Newport is conſidered as the capital, and ſtands nearly in the centre of the iſland. It is watered on the eaſt and weſt ſides by two ſtreams, one of which takes its riſe at the foot of St. Catherine's, and the other at a place called Rayner's grove, about three miles from Newport: theſe two ſtreams, after ſupplying ſeveral corn mills, form a junction at the quay, from whence the river Medina is navigable to the ſea. The town contains about ſix hundred dwelling-houſes, and is diſpoſed in five long

Drawn & Engraved by Chas. Tombins.

Published as the Act Directs by C. and G. Kearsley, Fleet St. 1794.

ENTRANCE into NEWPORT.

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parallel ſtreets, croſſed by three others, the whole of which are well paved. The buildings, which are for the moſt part of brick, are neat and regular, and amongſt them are ſeveral good houſes. To the beauty and amuſement of the place two elegant aſſembly rooms alſo contribute. In the original plan of the town, it was intended, that there ſhould have been three large ſquares, at the interſections of the ſtreets, to ſerve as markets for cattle, corn, and poultry; but various encroachments have deſtroyed the uniformity of the firſt deſign.

A market is held every Wedneſday, and another on Saturday. The principal commodities brought thither, are poultry, butter, and grain. A great part of the latter, is manufactured in the iſland, into flour, malt, and biſcuit, for the navy; and the remainder is ſold for exportation.

Newport received its firſt charter of immunities from Richard de Redvers, the ſecond

earl of Devon of that name, in the reign of Henry the ſecond. The ſecond charter was granted by Iſabella de Fortibus, counteſs of Albemarle and Devon.

In this charter, the counteſs ſtyles the town her new *borough of Medina*; and ſhe grants to the burgeſſes, all the market tolls, and other liberties belonging to her; with power of diſtraining for ſuch tolls, and of holding pleas, and amercing within the borough. She alſo grants the burgeſſes common of paſture for all animals in Parkhurſt; and ſhe gives them in fee, a water mill, near the priory of the Holy Croſs, called Weſt-mill; and a moiety of another water-mill, ſituated near the Ford, called the Ford-mill.

A yearly rent of eighteen marks, is reſerved to the counteſs, and one mark annually to the lepers of the hoſpital of St. Auguſtine, for all the houſes in the borough, except certain meſſuages, with their appurtenances, which are ſtated to have been dedicated, by the

counteſs, to God, and the chapel of St. Nicholas in the caſtle of Cariſbrook, and to the vicar of that chapel.

Theſe premiſes are ſtill out of the juriſdiction of the borough, and are called "Caſtle-"hold." The rent reſerved for the mills, tolls, fines, and amerciaments, is eighteen marks of ſilver to the counteſs, and two marks annually, to the prior and monks of Cariſbrook.

The borough of Newport ſent repreſentatives to the parliament held in the 23d year of the reign of Edward I; and it appears, that writs were ſent to the bailiffs of the Iſle of Wight, in the ſecond and fourth years of the reign of Edward II; but no returns were made to the ſheriffs upon thoſe writs.

The charter of Iſabella de Fortibus, was ſucceſſively confirmed, by Edward III. Richard II. Edward IV. Henry VII. Henry VIII. and queen Elizabeth; by ſome of whom

were added, grants of the forfeitures of outlaws, felons, and fugitives, within the borough, and of the petty cuſtoms within all ports and creeks of the iſland.

By ſome of the old books of the corporation, it appears, that they formerly claimed fourpence per ton, from all ſhipping which paſſed the coaſt; and this is ſuppoſed to have been the origin, of the duty ſtill impoſed on all veſſels anchoring in Cowes road, at the mouth of Newport river.

King James I. granted a charter to the bailiff and burgeſſes of this borough, conſtituting them a corporation, to conſiſt of a mayor, twenty-four burgeſſes, and a recorder: the mayor to be ſworn in before the captain of the iſland, or his ſteward. The mayor, recorder, (or his deputy) and two burgeſſes, are impowered to hold a court every Friday, for the trial of all cauſes of debt, treſpaſs, &c. ariſing within the borough.

In the thirteenth year of Charles II. the mayor and burgeſſes obtained a ſecond charter, by which they are now incorporated by the names of the mayor, aldermen and burgeſſes. The aldermen, who are twelve in number, are elected by the mayor and aldermen, out of the chief burgeſſes; and the mayor is elected out of the aldermen. The petty cuſtoms within all ports and creeks of the iſland, are confirmed to the borough by this charter; and the mayor, aldermen, and burgeſſes, are exempted from ſerving on juries.

No members were ſent to parliament by this borough, from the twenty-third of Edward I. until the twenty-ſeventh of Elizabeth; but, from that period, they have been regularly returned. Newport is indebted to Sir George Carey, captain of the iſland, for the reſtitution of this privilege; and the gratitude of the bailiff and burgeſſes, appears from a memorandum entered in the town books, by which they acknowledge the favour done

them by Sir George, and agree, that he ſhall nominate one of the burgeſſes during his life.

The ſteward of the governor of the iſland, holds a court in the town hall, called " Curia " militum, knight's court, or knighten " court." This court is of very ancient inſtitution, and is ſuppoſed to have been erected by William Fitz-Oſborne, who received the firſt grant of the iſland from William the Conqueror. It is plain, that this court is of feudal origin; for the judges of it were ſuch as held a knight's fee, or part of a knight's, from the lord of the iſland; and theſe judges, according to the feudal ſyſtem, gave judgment, as in courts of equity, without the intervention of a jury. The captain's ſteward or his deputy, holds this court, by virtue of the captain's patent, every Monday three weeks, except that day happens to be a holiday. It has juriſdiction over the whole iſland, except the borough of Newport, and holds plea of all actions of debt and treſpaſs under the value of forty ſhillings, and upon replevins

granted by the ſteward or his deputy. The proceedings are of the ſame nature as thoſe in our courts of equity, and are carried on by attornies admitted by the court. The actions of debt are tried by proof of plaintiff or defendant, or the defendant's wager of law, by two hands, if he prays it, and actions of treſpaſs are determined by proof only.

A repreſentation was made to lord Conway, the governor, in 1626, concerning the nature of this court, and the inconvenience ariſing from the ſmall number of its judges, who muſt be freeholders, holding of the caſtle of Cariſbrook. This was alſo accompanied with ſome uſeful hints for its improvement, by the introduction of juries, and the extenſion of its juriſdiction to cauſes of higher value. No alteration, however, has been made in its forms or powers.

The ſeal of Knighton Court repreſents a caſtle with battlements, round which are inſcribed theſe words:

SIGIL: CVRIÆ MIL: IN: INSVLA: VECTIS:+:

Under the government of the earl of Southampton, in the beginning of the laſt century, a free grammar ſchool, was erected at Newport, by public ſubſcription. It is a plain ſtone building, with convenient apartments for the maſter, who is maintained by the profits ariſing from ſome lands adjoining to the foreſt, which were granted in fee to the bailiffs and burgeſſes of Newport, in the firſt year of Henry V. by Agnes Attelode, and John Erleſman, at the yearly rent of twenty-pence. The original deed of conveyance is kept in a ſmall black box in the town-cheſt, and is as follows:

"*SCIANT preſentes et futuri qd. nos* Agnes *qui fui uxor* Johannis Attelode *et* Johes. Erleſman *ſenior dedimus conceſſimus et hac pnti. charta nra. confirmav.* Willmo. Farſye & Willmo. Sandere *ballivis de novo burgo de Newporte* Johanni Compton, Johanni Langſtoke, Willmo. Paxhulle, Richard Shide, *et oibus. alijs burgens, ejusdem burgi omnes terras et paſturas quas hamus. Sup.* Honiehulle *in borial pte. curſus aque voc.* Lukkeley *et in occiden. pte. foſſat. priorat.*

See Cruc. *voc.* Monken Woodich: *habend. et tenend. omnes terras et paſtur. prtas. cum ptin. ſuis prefatis* Willmo. Farſye, Willmo. Gandere, Johanni Compton, Johanni Langſtoke, Willmo. Paxhulle, Rico. Shide, *et oibus. alijs burgens. burgi præd et heredibus ſuis imppm. de capital. dnis feodi illar. p. ſervic. inde debit. et de jure conſuet. Reddend inde annuatim nobis et heredibus nris. viginț. denar. ad feſt. Paſche et ſee* Michis. *arch. p. equales porcones. pro oibus. al. ſervic. exactionibus ſive demand. Et nos vero predic.* Agnes *et* Johes Erleman, *et heredes nre. oes. prdtas. terr. et paſtur. cum ſuis ptin. prefatis* Willmo. Farſye, Willmo. Gandere, Johanni Compton, Johanni Langſtoke, Willmo Paxhulle, Rico. Shide, *et oibus alijs burgenſibus predic. burgi et heredibus ſuis contra oes. gentes warrentiz .oim. acquietabim. et imppm. defendem. In cujus rei teſtimon. huic preſenti charte nre. ſigilla nra. appoſuim. Hijs teſtibus* Willmo Bremeſkete, Willmo Ringborne, Thome Brereding, Johanne Hakett, Johanne Heyno, *et alijs. Dat. apud Newporte pred. qrto. die menſis Octobris anno regni regis* Henrici Quinti *Primo.*"

The church ſtands in the centre of one of the ſquares. It is ſuppoſed to have been built about the reign of Henry II. from its being dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, who was the popular ſaint of that time. The building is of ſtone, and is ſpacious, but not ſufficiently lofty for its ſize. It conſiſts of a body and two ailes, one of which is ſeparated from the body by ſeven gothic arches, and the other by ſix. It has been imagined that this church was partly built by a ſubſcription of the mechanics who reſided in the town, from the various mechanical figures carved on the South wall, ſome of which are ſtill viſible; but it is probable many more have been deſtroyed by the ſucceſſive reparations of the church. The tower has a ring of ſix bells, and is provided with a clock. The pulpit is of wainſcot, ornamented with fourteen emblematical figures curiouſly carved in alto relievo, repreſenting the Liberal Arts and Cardinal Virtues. Under the ſounding board is the date of 1636, and on the cornice, a ſentence from Iſaiah, cut in fret work. On the top, the God

of War and the Goddeſs of Peace are repreſented, forming an union. The church has galleries all round, and likewiſe an organ. The only monument in it worthy of notice, is that of Sir Edward Horſey, who is repreſented in armour, lying in a handſome decorated niche. At his feet is a horſe's head attired in a wreath argent and azure, and above him is the following inſcription:

Edwardus qui miles erat, fortiſſimus Horſey,
Vectis erat præſes conſtans, terraque marique
Magnanimus, placidæ ſub pacis nomine fortis,
Juſtitiæ cultor quam fidus amicus amico.
Fautor Evangelii, dilectus principe vixit
Munificus, populo multum dilectus ab omni
Vixit; et ut ſancti, ſic ſtamina ſancta peregit.

Qui obiit 23 die Marcii.
An. Dni 1582.

The arms of Sir Edward are quartered over the centre of the arch.

Sir Edward Horſey well deſerved the praiſe beſtowed on him in this Epitaph. During ſeventeen years government of the iſland, he

was conſtantly attentive to its intereſts, and particularly to the wool trade, from which it derives conſiderable advantage. There is extant, an agreement between the bailiffs of the town of Newport, and the clothiers of the county of Somerſet, for fixing the petit cuſtoms of wool, purchaſed by the clothiers within this iſland; this agreement is dated the 6th of July, 1578; and is declared to have been made by the mediation and award of Sir Edward Horſey. The plentiful ſupply of game with which this iſland formerly abounded, was alſo owing to the attention and care of this gentleman, who is reported to have been ſo anxious for its increaſe, that he gave a lamb to every perſon who brought a live hare into the iſland.

The chancel is ſeparated from the body of the church by ſmall oak pillars and arches ornamented with carving. In digging a grave nearly under the communion table for the honourable Mr. Weſt, ſon of Lord Delawar, in October 1793, the leaden coffin of

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ELIZABETH
2d DAVGHTER
OF ye LATE
KING CHARLES
DECEᵐD
SEPT. 8th MDCL
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N°1

Princeſs Elizabeth, ſecond daughter of King Charles I. was diſcovered in a vault which was perfectly dry when it was opened, and the coffin in a ſtate almoſt equal to new. An ingenious friend having communicated a ſketch of the coffin, taken in the ſituation in which it ſtood when the vault was opened, the reader will probably not be diſpleaſed with the annexed engraving of it. Fig. 1, in this Plate, ſhews the coffin in a ſide view, as it ſtood in the vault; and Fig. 2, the lid with the inſcription. Upon the wall of the chancel not far diſtant from the vault, is a ſmall ſtone, with the letters E. S. cut in it. This obſcure inſcription had paſſed almoſt without notice, till the coffin was diſcovered, but it now ſeems clear, that it was meant as a direction to thoſe who might ſearch for the grave of this unfortunate young Princeſs, Elizabeth Stuart, who did not long ſurvive her father, and died a priſoner in Cariſbrook Caſtle.

Newport originally belonged to the Priory of Cariſbrook, and upon the ſequeſtration

of the Priory, the right of appointing the miniſter ſeems to have devolved, as in all ſimilar caſes, to the vicar of the Mother Church of Cariſbrook: and this appears the more probable, as there is no endowment of the Church of Newport, nor, indeed, was there any certain ſupport for the miniſter till the year 1653, when the mayor and chief burgeſſes ordained, that a rate ſhould be made for his ſubſiſtence. As the miniſter is thus entirely ſupported by the inhabitants, it has been uſually left to them to elect whom they pleaſed; but judging from the uſual courſe of eccleſiaſtical preferments, we are rather naturally led to agree with Sir Richard Worſley, that the appointment of the curate is ſtrictly in the vicar of Cariſbrook. From the report made to Edward VI. by the commiſſioners appointed by letters patent in 1547, it appears, that the plate, bells, veſtments, and other implements belonging to the Church of Newport, which were ſeized at the Reformation, produced the ſum of £100. 5s. 6d.

The great increaſe of buildings in Newport, ſince the decay of Cariſbrook, has extended the town beyond the limits of the pariſh. Accordingly, Caſtle Hold is within the pariſh of St. Nicholas, Copping's Bridge is in that of Whippingham, and Node Hill in Cariſbrook.

Newport has given title to four Earls and one Baron. In the fourth year of Charles I. Lord Mountjoy Blount, natural ſon of the Earl of Devonſhire, was created Baron Thurlſton, and Earl of Newport. He was ſucceeded by his three ſons, who all dying without iſſue, the title became extinct in 1679.

The borough of Newport ſends two burgeſſes to parliament. The right of election is in the corporation, conſiſting of twelve aldermen and twelve burgeſſes; who have been for ſome time paſt influenced in their choice of repreſentatives, by the family of Holmes. Upon the death of the late Lord

Holmes, his eſtate in the iſland, together with his influence in this borough, deſcended to his Nephew the Rev. Leonard Troughear, who has taken the ſurname of Holmes. An attempt was made, at the time of Lord Holmes's death, to change the patronage of the borough; and a conſiderable intereſt was eſtabliſhed in the corporation, by Sir William Oglander and ſome other gentlemen, for the purpoſe of effecting this object. There were at that time only twenty-three electors, eleven of whom had declared themſelves in favour of the old patronage, and an equal number were determined to oppoſe it. The remaining elector was Mr. Taylor of Newport. Both parties in their zeal to ſecure this gentleman's intereſt, applied to him in a way that gave him an opportunity of exhibiting a character, for integrity and independence, rarely to be met with in the annals of borough elections. He was offered a conſiderable ſum of money by the agents of each party; but diſdaining to put to ſale that which is juſtly conſidered the moſt va-

luable privilege of an Engliſhman, he choſe rather to reſign his gown as a burgeſs, than give his ſupport to any party who would accept his ſuffrage on ſuch diſhonourable terms. Since this event, Mr. Troughear Holmes, found means to eſtabliſh himſelf in the patronage, and ſtill continues to poſſeſs it. The preſent members are, Lord Viſcount Palmerſton, and the Hon. Penyſton Lamb.

The town of Newport is badly ſupplied with water, there being few wells. On this account, the principal part of the water uſed by the inhabitants, is brought in water-carts from Cariſbrook, and retailed through the town. It appears however, that, formerly, there was a better regulation in this reſpect; for in digging lately in the beaſt-market for ſtone to pave the town with, a large reſervoir was diſcovered, and ſeveral pipes have likewiſe been found in the road from Cariſbrook, leading in a direct line to Newport. It would be very eaſy to reſtore this method of ſupplying the town with ſo neceſſary an article; and it is ſomewhat ſurprizing, that

this ſhould have eſcaped the notice of thoſe public ſpirited gentlemen, who have, on many occaſions, taken great pains for the improvement of the iſland, and the accommodation of its inhabitants. It is ſaid, indeed, that a gentleman offered a ſhort time ſince to bring water by pipes from Cariſbrook, and alſo to light the town, if the corporation would elect him one of their repreſentatives in parliament: and though elections of this ſort ought to be free from influence of every deſcription, it muſt be allowed that this was ſuch a propoſal, as might have been accepted, without ſubjecting the electors to the ſame degree of venality, as would have attached to the acceptance of ſuch an offer as that rejected by Mr. Taylor. The advantages in one caſe would have been materially felt by the public; in the other, the avarice of an individual alone would have been gratified.

There was formerly at Newport a chauntry, dedicated to the Bleſſed Virgin, and founded by John Garſton of that town. By

a half yearly rental, beginning at Michaelmas in the year 1682, it appears, that the lands in and about Newport, belonging to this chauntry, were in the poſſeſſion of Edward Fleming Eſq. the yearly income thereof, at that time, being £15. 3s. 6d. The ſame lands are now held by John Fleming, Eſq. who pays to the crown the yearly rent of £12. 5s. 9d.

The original ſeals of the town, made uſe of under the charter of Iſabella de Fortibus, and the firſt ſeal uſed by the corporation, under the charter of King James I. are ſtill remaining. The former of theſe repreſents an ancient ſhip, with one maſt, and a ſail bent, and an anchor and rudder. Round it is this inſcription:

Sigillum: commune: ville: de: Neuport: in: Inſula: de: Wight.

King James's ſeal is made of copper, and is in two pieces, formed ſo as to be ſcrewed into one handle. One part of it is kept by the mayor, and the other by the town clerk; conſequently the ſeal cannot be made uſe of without the preſence or aſſent of the poſſeſſors of both parts. It repreſents the figure of the King in full face, in his royal robes, with a crown on his head. On one ſide of the figure is the letter I, on the other the letter R; and ſurrounding the ſeal, is this inſcription:

S'STATVTORVM MERCATOR' CAPT' INFRA BVRGVM DE NEWPORT IN INSVLA VECT.

I ſhall cloſe this account of Newport, with a copy of the charter, granted to this town, by Iſabella de Fortibus, in the reign of King Edward the Firſt.

" *Sciant preſentes et futuri, quod ego* Iſabella de Fortibus, *comitiſſa Albemarl. et Devon. ac Dna. Inſulæ in ligea viduitate et plena poteſtate*

mea, dedi et conceſſi, et hac preſenti charta mea confirmavi burgenſibus meis de novo burgo meo de Medina omnimodam libertatem de theolonio, et de omnibus alijs conſuetudinibus unde liberi burgenſes libertatem habeant, quantum in me pertinet; per totam terram meam, in villis, in vijs, in terra, in mare, in portu, in nundinis, in mercatis, in venditionibus, in eruptionibus, in burgo et extra burgum, et in omnibus locis, et omnibus rebus ſuis. Conceſſi etiam præfatis burgenſibus meis qd. ſint quieti et liberi de ſciris et hundredis, et de omnibus ſect. ad ſeir. et hundr. in inſula. Conceſſi quoq. ijſdem burgenſibus qd. habeant comia paſturæ ad omnimodo animalia ſua p. totam paſturam in landis meis in Parkhorſt, *extra boſcum quietam de herbagio in perpetuum. Præterea conceſſi ipſis burgenſibus, quod omne placitum quod in predicto burgo ortum fuit, quod ad me pertinet in ipſo burgo inter ipſos et per ipſos placitetur et amerciamentum inde proveniens, per ipſos amercietur et taxetur. Et volo et concedo pro me et hæredibus meis qd. nullus eorum cum amerciari debeat de amerciamento qd. ad me pertinet, ad plus quam ad triginta denarios amercietur;*

et hoc judicis et conſideratione ipſorum burgenſium conceſſi inſuper prædictis burgenſibus qd. nullus in dicto burgo ſit præpoſitus aut balivus niſi ipſe quem ijdem burgenſes et hæredes eorum reddent ſingulis annis mihi et hæredibus et aſſignatis meis pro omnibus meſſuagijs ſuis in eadem villa exceptis meſſuagijs ædificatis in tredecim placeis et dimid. placea quorum redditum una cum eſcheata et omnibus alijs rebus adhuc unde contingentibus dedi et conceſſi Deo et capellæ beati Nichi. in caſtro meo de Careſbroc et vicario ejuſdem capellæ prout carta ejus plenius porteſtatur, ad duos anni terminos decem et octo marcas duos ſolidos et duos denarios, viz. medietatem ad Paſcham, et alteram medietatem ad feſtum ſancti Michis: et leproſis hoſpitalis ſancti Auguſtini ad prædictos terminos ſingulis annis unam marcam argenti de libera et perpetua eleemoſina mea, videlicet ad quemlibet terminorum prædictorum dimid. marc. Dedi inſuper et conceſſi prædictis burgenſibus meis ad feodi firmam perpetue duratur unum molendinum aquaticum ſitum juxta prioratum ſcti. Crucis qd. appellatur la Weſt Mill, cum omnibus ptinentijs ſuis, et medietatem unicus molendini aquatici ſiti juxta

la ford quod vocatur Le Ford Mill, cum omnibus ptinentijs ſuis. Conceſſi etiam qd. præfati burgenſes quicte habeant omnia et ſingula amerciamenta de omnibus querelis et placitis ortis in prædicto burgo quæ inter ipſos placitantur vel placitari poſſint. Et etiam qd. habeant totum theolonium et cuſtumam quæ ad me pertinent in prædicto burgo et extra burgum, ſimul cum poteſtate diſtringere pro eiſdem theolonis et cuſtuma, in omnibus locis ubi ea aliquando tempore conſueverunt, exceptis tredecim placeis et di mid. ſupradictis et ſalvis libertatibus a me conceſſis abbati et conventui de Quarr. et hominibus ſuis, priori Xti eccleſiæ de Twynham, *et hominibus ſuis, et priori de* Appledurcombe, *et hominibus ſuis, prout cartæ eorum plenius et melius teſtantur; habendum et tenendum omnia premiſſa data et conceſſa prædictis burgenſibus et eorum hæredibus, cum omni commoditate et incremento quæ in prædicto burgo acceſſere poterint; ſine contradictione reclamatione ſeu impedimento mei, vel hæredum aut aſſignatorum meorum, libere, pacifice, quiete, et integre, reddendo inde annuatim mihi et hæredibus vel aſſignatis meis pro prædicta feudi firma molendin.*

theolon. cuſtum. et amerciament. decem et octo marcas argenti ad quatuor anni tempora, viz. ad feſtum ſcti. Michis. ſexaginta ſolidos, ad nat. Dni. ſexaginta ſolidos, ad feſtum Paſch. 60s. *et ad nat. ſcti* Johis. Baptiſtæ, 60s. *Et priori et monacis de Careſbroc, duas marcas annuatim ad eoſdem terminos per æquales portiones de perpetua eleemoſina pro omnibus ſervitus ſæcularibus exactione et demandis. Et ego* Iſabella, *et hæredes et aſſignati mei hæc omnia data conceſſa et confirmata prædictis burgenſibus et eorum hæredibus in omnibus et per omnia warrantizabimus et contra omnes gentes defendemus in perpetuum: ut autem hæc noſtra donatio et hujus cartæ meæ confirmatis perpetuæ firmatis robur obtineat, præſentem cartam ſigilli mei impreſſione roboravi. Hijs teſtibus,* Willō. de Sancto Martino, Henrico Trenchard, Thoma de la Haulde, Tho. de Evercey, Willō. Eſtur, Jordō. de Kingeſton, *militibus,* Johē. de Patghgrave, *tunc conſtabulario inſulæ,* Johē. de Heyno, Willē. de Nevile, Galfrido de Inſula, Hugone la Vavaſur, Walt. Barnard, *et aliis.*"

The preſent number of inhabitants of the town of Newport, is two thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-eight.

The extenſive tours to which we now proceed to draw the reader's attention, ſhall be deſcribed in the following order, viz. Firſt, the Weſtern; Secondly, the Eaſtern; and Thirdly, the Southern; each of which poſſeſſes a great and pleaſing variety. Before we commence with theſe, however, it may not be amiſs to point out two walks, in the vicinity of the town of Newport, that will give the traveller a juſt idea of the ſituation and conveniences of the place: theſe will alſo prove a conſiderable ſaving to him in point of time, and render it leſs neceſſary to digreſs from the general road of the different tours that we ſhall have occaſion to mention in future.

The Medina being the ſource of the mercantile advantages of Newport and its environs, it ſeems requiſite to direct the rea-

der's notice to a walk on the banks of that river; an excurſion which cannot but be pleaſing to all viſitors of the Iſle of Wight. The way to the river is down Quay-ſtreet; then acroſs a foot-bridge, near Mr. Cook's Brew-houſe, over the ſtream that runs from Cariſbrook, and joins the Medina river at this place. After paſſing a few fiſhermen's houſes, we are then led by a path between a double row of elms, on the bank of the river. The moſt eligible time for undertaking this walk, is the evening, when the beauties of this delightful ſcene are viewed to the greateſt advantage. At the end of the path, we enter a copſe, which ſtill poſſeſſes a pleaſant gloom, and at various openings ſhews the river and its oppoſite banks, which are covered with a fine verdure. Leaving the copſe, we take the beaten path up an eaſy aſcent in the adjoining meadow, to a ſeat placed under a clump of trees, from whence we have an extenſive view in every direction. The ſouthern view wears ſo pictureſque an appearance, that I have

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MEDINA RIVER.

been induced to give a repreſentation of it, under the title of *The Medina River.*

This place is much reſorted to by the inhabitants of Newport. A ſhort diſtance from it, is a pleaſant ſpot, called Hurſtſtake, which is a ſmall Public-houſe, under a grove of trees, on a projecting ſweep of the river's banks. Refreſhments may be procured here, and likewiſe a boat for croſsing the river, which ſhould rather be done at this place than farther on; as this ſide of the river now begins to loſe its agreeable variety. From this ſituation, the ſerpentine direction of the river is ſeen to advantage in either view, and is no leſs worth attending to than the rival mills, ſituated on each ſide of the river. Theſe are immenſe piles of brick and ſtone work; and though far from pictureſque, do not deſerve on that account, to be paſſed over in ſilence, ſince their want of beauty is amply compenſated by their utility. They are ſaid to be capable of grinding forty loads of wheat in a week; and

are worked by a pent water, which is formed by the tide's flowing over a dam. Theſe fabrics alſo poſſeſs every convenience for baking biſcuits for the uſe of the navy, of which conſiderable quantities are daily ſhipped for Portſmouth, and other places.

The principal kinds of fiſh which are caught in the river Medina, are mullet, flat-fiſh, and oyſters.

Croſſing the water at Hurſt-ſtake, the tide running out afforded ſo advantageous a view of the place I had juſt left, as to induce me to add a ſecond plate under the ſame title. In this view *Hurſt-ſtake* forms the right-hand ſcreen, and the Whippingham ſhore the left, with Newport Church, and the high ground of *Mountjoy* in the centre.

At Fairlee, in the pariſh of Whippingham, is the ſeat of John White, Eſq. On the eaſt-ſide of the river, the houſe is ſubſtantial, and has the appearance of being a

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NEWPORT From FAIRLEE,

good family houſe. It is built of glazed brick, plain, and without decoration, as may be perceived from the annexed view of the weſt front, which is taken from the lawn, that falls, in an eaſy ſlope, towards the water's edge. At the ſouth-ſide of the lawn, is a plantation of evergreens, under a grove of oaks, in which is a winding path from the water up to the houſe.

Leaving this place, we took the right-hand path into the fields, in one of which the view of *Newport from Fairlee* was drawn. This is a much better view of the town of Newport than is ſeen in any other direction; as it exhibits the whole of the town, backed by Mountjoy, Cariſbrook caſtle and village; beſides Bucombe, Avington, and Galibury Downs, with the grove of St. Croſs: in a word, the river only is wanting to make this view complete. Paſſing the meadows, we entered the Whippingham road, and kept to the right-hand which led by Coppin's-

bridge into the town of Newport, and were not a little ſatisfied with our excurſion.

Cariſbrook Caſtle deſerves likewiſe to be recommended for a walk, as it is not more than a mile from the town of Newport. The way to this place is through High-ſtreet and Caſtle-Hold, taking the foot-path called the Mall, which joins the weſtern end of the town. It is about two hundred yards in length, and eight yards wide. On the left hand, it is in part ſhaded by lofty elms, under which, ſome ſeats would be a very deſirable addition. On the right, it is open to meadows, which are backed by Parkhurſt foreſt. It poſſeſſes alſo the farther advantage of a good view of Mountjoy, Cariſbrook Caſtle, the village of Cariſbrook, and Priory Farm: from its contiguity to the town, it is the reſort of the gay throng.

At the end of this walk, is the horſe-road to the village of Cariſbrook, and to the

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caſtle. Juſt oppoſite to this part of the road, is a narrow lane, which is the paſs where, it is ſaid, Sir Hugh Tyrrel, in 1377, defeated the French, who were on their march to the caſtle of Cariſbrook. The lane ſtill retains the name it acquired from that event, of *Dead-man's* lane; and adjoining the Eaſt end of it is a part of Newport, called Nodes hill, probably a corruption from *Noddies* hill, which was the name given to the tumulus, formed by the bodies of thoſe ſlain in the engagement. Farther on, the road divides at an angle: the left leads to the caſtle, and the right to the village, both of them carriage roads. At a ſhort diſtance, for the accommodation of foot paſſengers, there is an agreeable path over the fields, which continues by an eaſy aſcent, till you arrive at the outer gate of the caſtle. This road is much improved, and the waſte ground, which is planted with various ſhrubs, will, in a few years, form an agreeable contraſt with the ſurrounding fields and meadows.

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